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City OK's deal for 226 new buses

$155.7M 'recall program' will see older models traded in for credit, fresh fleet of diesels

STEVE COLLINS
for Metro Ottawa

Ottawa's getting a deal on 226 new buses.

Council yesterday approved the $155.7-million purchase of 226 new articulated diesel buses in an 18-3 vote.

Under the deal with New Flyer Industries of Winnipeg, the city will also trade in and receive credit for 226 older models the city bought from the company between 2001 and 2004, which have experienced a number of technical problems.

Coun. Clive Doucet characterized the purchase agreement as a "recall program," allowing the city to trade in the 226 older buses instead of having to pay to maintain the "lemons" as they age.

The new buses, council heard, are expected to offer greater reliability and fuel efficiency as well as lower emissions than the old models.

A five-year "bumper-to-bumper" warranty will cover all repairs and maintenance, except heating and air conditioning, which is covered for two years, and normal wear and tear like brake pad and tire replacement.

"My only question," Mayor Larry O'Brien said before the vote, "is when do they deliver the first bus?"

Councillors Rick Chiarelli, Bob Monette and Diane Deans cast the only votes against the purchase.

"It appears to be a good deal," Chiarelli said, "but the road to bankruptcy is paved with great deals."

His major reservations, he said, were the speed with which the deal, offered only last month, had been approved, and the possible effect on the city's debt load.

Chicago's loss

- New Flyer offered Ottawa a discount after the City of Chicago, facing a financial squeeze, deferred a major bus purchase from the firm.

Jaffer's contact with feds touched six departments

INVESTIGATION Conservative government officials dealt with business inquiries by former MP Rahim Jaffer as a "priority" and sometimes pushed bureaucrats to speed up their responses to his projects, documents obtained by The Canadian Press show.

And Jaffer sometimes used a parliamentary email address assigned to the office of his wife — Helena Guergis, the former minister of state for the status of women — when contacting Conservatives he knew in government.

The documents were tabled yesterday with the Commons government operations committee, the same day as MPs heard testimony from Nazim Gillani, a business associate of Jaffer's who has been a key figure in the allegations against him.

Gillani simultaneously contradicted Jaffer and backed him up. On the one hand, he told the committee their business relationship was formal and lasted well into 2010, refuting Jaffer's claim that their talks dissolved last September.

But on the other hand, Gillani said he did not believe Jaffer was engaged in formal lobbying and described allegations of offshore accounts and compromising photos of Jaffer and Guergis as an "absolute lie."

Gillani and Jaffer had been looking at a handful of projects together, and Jaffer was to determine their eligibility for federal funding.

Those projects, and others, were detailed in over 50 pages of documents tabled by the government with the committee, the commissioner of lobbying, and the ethics commissioner.

At least six ministerial offices were contacted by Jaffer relating to business queries.

There is no suggestion projects Jaffer was working on ever received government funding, but his requests for meetings or information were dealt with swiftly.

Jaffer has maintained he never lobbied any government official, but was simply seeking information about various renewable energy projects. The Lobbying Act exempts simple queries about programs and their terms and conditions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nazim Gillani, a business associate of former MP Rahim Jaffer, appears before the Standing Committee on Government Operations yesterday on Parliament Hill.

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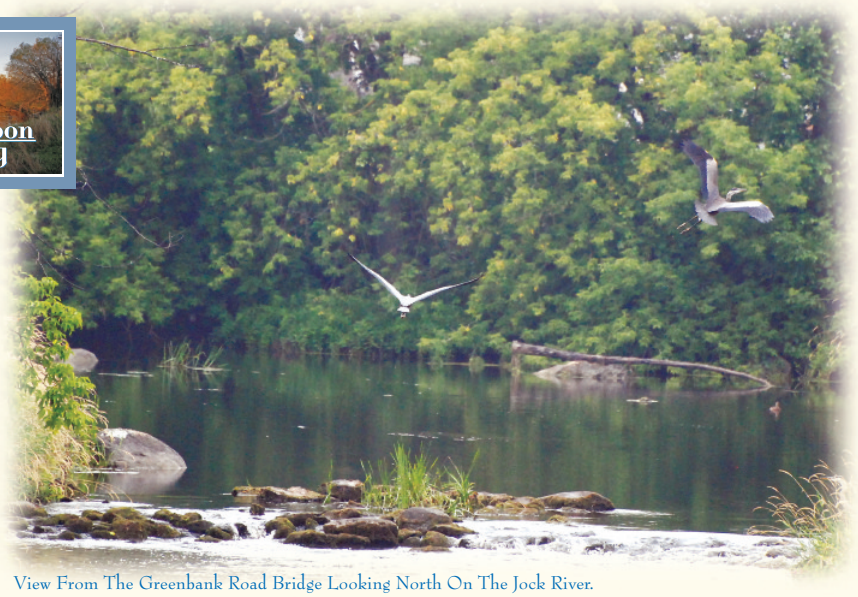
Here's What You'll See On A Walk Through Our Neighbourhood.



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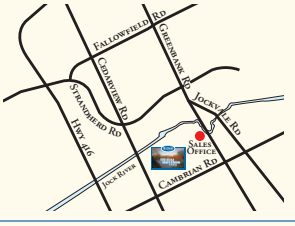

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Local

Drop off your hazardous waste

Keep your home — and the environment — free of hazardous household waste. The city is hosting a one-day mobile household hazardous waste collection depot at the federal government parking lot at Rochester and Booth streets from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. this Saturday. Items accepted include aerosol containers, propane cylinders, disinfectants, fluorescent bulbs, fire extinguishers, fertilizers and pesticides, paint, and pool chemicals. METRO OTTAWA

Water trucks put on hold

Sponsor sought for mobiles that would offer free drinks

Ottawa's Water Mobile program, which would pay for two trucks to provide free drinking water at summer festivals and other events, is on hold as the city looks into the possibility of finding a corporate sponsor to foot the bill.

Citing the water department's $5.579-million deficit, Coun. Bob Monette had introduced a motion to outright kill the $200,000 program, which is meant to promote the city's drinking water and reduce waste from the use of bottled water.

"I'm 58 years old," he said. "I remember for at least 55 years I've been drinking city water. Never once did I have to have a Water Mobile to tell me that the water was safe to drink."

Other Ontario municipalities, including Guelph, have similar programs. Council had originally voted in favour of the water trucks during the budget process.

The $200,000 cost for the program includes $120,000 for the purchase of two trucks, with annual costs of $34,000 to operate them, $25,000 for promotion and $21,000 to hire three summer students.

Arguing in favour of the Water Mobiles, Coun. Peter Hume compared the trucks in terms of expense and promotional intent to the city's parade float: "One's for water and the other's for politicians. We won't cut the one for politicians but we'll cut the one for water, because we all want to ride around on it and wave."

An amendment by Coun. Marianne Wilkinson to buy only one truck instead of two, at a total cost of $100,000, was defeated.

STEVE COLLINS/ FOR METRO OTTAWA

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Blogs Fashion columnist Kenya Hunt covers the surprising rise of fish leather

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TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

A worker lays a rose at the monument remembering those who died or were injured in workplace incidents during the National Day of Mourning yesterday.

Workplace victims mourned

CEREMONY In 2008, 1,036 Canadians died in the workplace or from a workplace-related illness.

Yesterday, a long line of Canadian flags — one for each of the people whose lives were taken — marked the path to a National Day of Mourning ceremony at Vincent Massey Park to remember all those who were killed or injured.

"The best way to pay tribute to those we remember today is to continue to strive for safer and healthier workplaces," said Labour Minister Lisa Raitt.

Employers, unions and governments all have a responsibility to continue to raise awareness of occupational hazards, she said.

The construction trade accounts for only eight per cent of Canada's workforce, but has 30 per cent of the deaths and injuries, said Robert Blakely with Canadian Building Trades.

There are many reasons for injuries and deaths, including the pressure to take risks, lack of training and inexperience, which affects young people the most, Blakely said.

"We know that young people may be more likely to underestimate risks," said Raitt. "And when they first enter the workplace, students may be much less likely to challenge a supervisor when a workplace situation seems hazardous.

"We have to make sure collectively that when our sons and daughters first enter the labour market, they are provided with safe work environments and they are aware of their right to speak if they feel the workplace presents a danger."

Just under a million people had a workplace accident in Canada last year, said Blakely.

Canada has some of the world's best health and safety laws, said NDP Leader Jack Layton, "but as long as we fail to ensure that they can be properly enforced, we're going to see these tragedies continuing."

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Triathlete to discuss plant-based nutrition

HEALTH A Canadian-born vegan professional triathlete will be in Ottawa today through Saturday to talk about how plant-based nutrition can reduce stress and improve athletic performance.

Brendan Brazier went vegan at 15 to become a better athlete.

"I wanted to make a career out of being an athlete and doing triathlons, so I tried different ways of eating," he said.

Now 35, the Vancouver native is a two-time Canadian ultramarathon champion (2003 and 2006). He competed in the Ironman triathlon for seven years, consistently placing in the top 10.

"A lot more people are realizing the benefits of a plant-based diet," he said. "It's much more common than it used to be in 1990."

The author of bestselling books Thrive Diet and Thrive Fitness will be discussing the benefits of plant-based diets at the Natural Food Pantry on Riverside Drive today, Market Organics on York Street tomorrow and at Rainbow Foods on Richmond Road Saturday.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

News in brief

STATUE A statue of jazz pianist Oscar Peterson is coming to the corner of Elgin and Albert streets near the National Arts Centre after city council cleared the way for the monument yesterday. Ruth Abernethy, who also created a life-sized statue of Canadian pianist Glenn Gould in Toronto, is crafting the statue.

PLAN Council approved the updated City Strategic Plan (2007-2010) yesterday. The plan — which highlights the city's $600-million commitment in the 2010 budget, in addition to $375 million in funding to renew and enhance Ottawa's roads, transit, pedestrian and cycling facilities — will guide the city through until the end of 2010.

PEDESTRIANS The city is attempting to improve pedestrian safety at Ottawa's intersections. Council approved a review of 23 intersections as a part of the Pedestrian Safety Evaluation Program, a three-year pilot project aimed at minimizing the frequency and severity of preventable collisions.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

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Quebec climbers rescued on U.S. peak

Mount Rainier National Park rangers in Washington state have rescued two Quebec climbers who called for help after falling near Camp Muir — about the 3,000-metre level of the 4,392-metre mountain. Both showed signs of hypothermia and were flown to hospital. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada

'Sexy Rexy' to wed

Dancer Rex Harrington — nicknamed "Sexy Rexy" — is getting married. The National Ballet of Canada says Harrington and his partner Robert Hope, right, plan to wed in the summer of 2011. The couple have been together for six years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada, G8 play down rift over abortion

An abortion disagreement between Canada and the G8 may be cooling down.

International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda says G8 development ministers agree flexibility is needed to allow each member state to determine how they can help achieve Canada's goals of improving the health of mothers and young children in developing countries.

Bev Oda

Earlier this week, Canada said it will not support funding for abortions in developing nations.

Oda has played down any rift with other G8 countries, particularly the United States and Britain.

Both believe access to safe abortion should be part of a family planning program.

At the break up of a two-day meeting of development ministers yesterday, Oda said her colleagues agreed to a set of guiding principles as they develop an agenda for the G8 leaders meeting in Ontario this summer that will focus on child and maternal health.

"We have agreed on a set of principles that will guide our work and a scope of actions that leave our ability, and the needed flexibility, for each country so that they can advise their leaders on how to build their basket of initiatives to support Canada's focus on mothers and children," she told a news conference.

The Obama administration has said it supports a woman's right to safe abortions in developing countries.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said last month that a maternal health initiative must include the provision of safe, legal abortions.

Canada's stance on abortion has provoked sharp rebuke from the opposition in Ottawa and international aid agencies, who said it is irresponsible to deny the service to women in impoverished countries.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New Brunswick **Politicians leave workers a little crabby**

DAVID SMITH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Workers at F.N. Fisheries Ltd. process crab in Shippagan, N.B., yesterday. New Brunswick's fisheries minister says the federal government isn't taking notice of the plight of fishermen and fish plant workers in northern New Brunswick. Rick Doucet says despite cutting the crab quota in the Gulf of St. Lawrence by 63 per cent this year, Fisheries Minister Gail Shea has no plan to help the workers who have been affected.

News in brief

FREE SPEECH Lawyers for a British MP banned from Canada say the decision to keep him out was "an exercise in taunting" by government officials. Galloway had planned a speaking tour in March 2009, but immigration officials said he supported terrorism and declared him inadmissible.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Beware, the delete button is powerless

WEB When a New Brunswick woman disappeared this year, the RCMP and the family made widely publicized pleas for help.

Her name and photograph was blogged, tweeted and forwarded online to the world. The woman surfaced in March, having escaped after allegedly being kidnapped and sexually assaulted, and the same information that had been so freely available was now banned from publication to protect her identity.

But echoes of the woman's name and her disappearance still appear on the Internet. And experts say the nearly impossible task of erasing data completely online demonstrate the need to update publication bans for the Internet.

"In those kinds of cases, putting the genie back in the bottle has always been a little bit artificial, particularly in a community where everybody knows who it is," says Vancouver media lawyer Dan Burnett.

Burnett says publication ban laws need to be revised with the Internet in mind.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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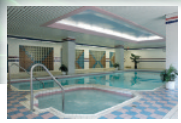

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Man finds possible human remains while renovating deck

A man renovating his deck in southern Ontario discovered bones beneath the boards, say police. Chatham-Kent police say the Dresden man was removing boards from his deck, when he located a dormant well. When he looked inside the well, he saw what appeared to be skeletal remains. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Anti-abortion students face expulsion

University of Calgary may dismiss group members over graphic posters

A group of students that oppose abortion is facing possible expulsion from the University of Calgary as part of a long-simmering dispute stemming from its refusal to move a pro-life poster display from campus.

The university is refusing to comment, but free speech advocates are panning the treatment of the students.

The group, called Campus Pro-Life Club, points out how quick the school was to herald itself as a defender of free speech when it welcomed firebrand conservative pundit Ann Coulter for an address last month.

"To me it feels like viewpoint discrimination because really, no other group on campus has ever been asked to modify the way that they're expressing their ideas," said Alanna Campbell, incoming president of the group and one of eight students facing discipline.

"The only reason I can come up with is they don't like our message."

There's little argument the group's display is provocative.

Called the Genocide Awareness Project, it compares abortion to past historical atrocities, such as the Rwandan genocide and the Holocaust. It involves graphic photos of fetuses and victims of genocide. It has been posted on the University of Calgary grounds eight times since 2006.

The two sides have been fighting since 2008 when the university charged the students with trespassing after they refused a request to turn graphic abortion signs away from passersby during a protest. Those charges were later stayed by the Alberta Crown.

Earlier this month, the university warned students in writing that they violated the non-academic misconduct policy.

A hearing was held yesterday with the provost, with another set for tomorrow. There are 10 possible sanctions ranging from a written warning to suspension or expulsion.

Campbell admitted the display is "really graphic" but said the university's reaction seems to be a bit on the extreme side.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Campus Pro-Life Club member Alanna Campbell, who may face expulsion from the University of Calgary, along with seven others, speaks to reporters at the university yesterday.

Opposition, Tories open negotiations on Afghan docs release

INFORMATION Senior government ministers will meet opposition party officials today in a preliminary bid to find a compromise over release of uncensored Afghan detainee documents.

Dimitri Soudas, spokesman for Prime Minister Stephen Harper, says the meeting demonstrates the government's "spirit of openness" on the matter.

He says Justice Minister Rob Nicholson and Government House Leader Jay Hill will be involved in the meetings.

The meetings follow a historic ruling Tuesday by Commons Speaker Peter Milliken.

Milliken sided with the opposition parties in concluding that parliamentarians have unlimited power to demand release of all uncensored documents related to allegations Afghan authorities tortured prisoners captured by Canadian soldiers.

He gave the government and opposition parties two weeks to reach a compromise. THE CANADIAN PRESS

McGuinty hoping to salvage rest of new health curriculum

EDUCATION Premier Dalton McGuinty's on-again, off-again relationship with Ontario's proposed sex education curriculum is back on again — sort of.

One day after Education Minister Leona Dombrowsky suggested any revamp couldn't be ready by September, McGuinty, who scrapped the lesson plan last Thursday, insisted partial new guidelines would be in place this fall.

The premier hopes about 90 per cent of the 208-page revised health and physical education curriculum can be salvaged and taught during the upcoming school year.

"There are 12 subject areas within health and phys-ed. One of those is sex-ed. The 11 other areas are not controversial in any way," he said, referring to sections dealing with smoking and healthy eating, among others.

Following outrage from religious groups and parents, the premier iced the curriculum, which was two years in the making.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Too racy?

- At issue was the fact Grade 1 students would be learning about body parts; Grade 3 students would be told about homosexuality; Grade 6 students would be taught about masturbation, and oral and anal sex would be discussed in Grade 7.

Quebec hoping to copy drug price cuts

HEALTH Quebec is rubbing its hands in anticipation of Ontario's plans to limit prescription drug costs, which could trigger millions in savings for its own cash-strapped health system.

Quebec's health minister says the province would be in line for hefty savings if Ontario adopted a bill to lower prices by eliminating payments to drug stores by generic drug-makers.

"If we follow Ontario's example ... Quebec will automatically benefit," Yves Bolduc told the provincial legislature yesterday. "There will be economies of scale."

Bolduc is under pressure from Quebec's opposition parties to mimic Ontario's aggressive approach to reining in drug costs which, while appealing to many, has inflamed pharmacies and drug-makers.

So far Bolduc has resisted committing to a similar policy, insisting instead that Quebec will benefit regardless, thanks to its agreement with pharmaceutical companies to pay the lowest price in the country. The 2006 deal assured Quebec the "best available" price, in exchange for other concessions by the province.

Bolduc estimated earlier this week that Quebec could save "hundreds of millions of dollars" from Ontario's proposed price controls.

The Parti Quebecois opposition claims Quebec would save as much as $300 million per year if it followed Ontario's lead.

It says that's a more appealing option for easing the strain on Quebec's health system than the Charest government's new annual $200 health tax.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

$500M

Ontario estimates its plan, which would cut generic drug prices by 50 per cent, will save the province $500 million a year. But Ontario's health minister is reportedly warning her counterparts that its low prices may prompt chain stores to seek higher profit margins in other provinces.

News in brief

POLICE Ontario's highest court has dismissed the appeals of a former Cornwall, Ont., police officer who refused to testify at a public inquiry largely of his own making, calling his claims "spurious." Perry Dunlop led a crusade for years in Cornwall, Ont., to root out pedophiles and his work sparked calls for a public inquiry. The Cornwall inquiry's official mandate was to examine institutional responses to historical claims of sexual abuse, but many were looking to the report, released in December, to debunk rumours of a pedophile ring.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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G20 protesters may be exiled to Toronto park

A report says there's a plan to keep protesters far away from the Metro Toronto Convention Centre when the G20 meets this June. CTV News says a designated protest zone will be set up in Trinity Bellwoods Park — about two kilometres from the Convention Centre. THE CANADIAN PRESS

First Khadr hearing delayed

Lawyers for Guantanamo-held Canadian say they rejected plea-bargain offer

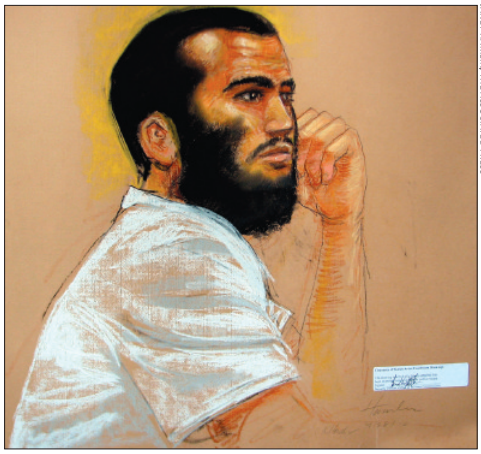
The first war-crimes proceedings under U.S. President Barack Obama against Canada's Omar Khadr were delayed for several hours yesterday as lawyers scrambled to read-up on a new 281-page rule book.

The delay occurred as one of Khadr's Canadian lawyers said the defence team had rejected a plea-bargain offer by prosecutors for a military commission that wants its "pound of flesh."

"We're not interested in any plea bargain that doesn't deal with the opportunity for Omar getting out of that hell-hole of Guantanamo Bay and coming home," Dennis Edney said.

The military-commission manual, which implements new laws enacted by the Obama administration last year, was only made available to counsel at Guantanamo Bay on Tuesday evening.

Denny LeBoeuf, a prominent lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union, called the situation unprecedented, and said it only raised further questions about the fairness of the process.



JANET HAMLIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian defendant Omar Khadr attended a hearing yesterday in the courthouse for the U.S. military war crimes commission at the Camp Justice compound at Guantanamo Bay U.S. Naval Base.

Normally, she said, such rules would be made public months in advance of their effective date to allow them to be studied.

"There is no set of circumstances like this," LeBoeuf said from New Orleans.

"This would literally never happen, not in the most benighted backwoods court you can imagine. It would simply never happen."

Among other things, the new rules lay out under what circumstances coerced statements can be admitted as evidence.

The manual is important to Khadr's defence team, given that the pre-trial proceedings this week centre on whether self-incriminating statements will be admissible at his trial.

The defence maintains Khadr, who faces a maximum sentence of life in prison, made the statements to interrogators only after extreme abuse.

The prosecution, on the other hand, insists Khadr's claims of torture are baseless and self-serving, and that the various statements should be allowed as evidence.

The Toronto-born Khadr, 23, is charged with murder for allegedly throwing a hand grenade that killed an American special forces soldier in Afghanistan in July 2002. Khadr was 15 at the time.

He was badly wounded and near death when he was captured in the rubble of a compound. He has been held at the American naval base prison in Cuba since the fall of 2002 — the only westerner still held there.

His trial is scheduled to begin in late July.

The military commissions, instituted by former U.S. president George W. Bush, have been widely derided by legal and human-rights groups both within the U.S. and abroad.

Obama pledged in January last year to shut down the commissions and the infamous prison, but those promises have so far gone unkept.

Instead, the Military Commissions Act was rejigged last fall in an effort to make the process more acceptable.

However, LeBoeuf said the latest issue around the rule book only called that further into question.

"Our allies and our enemies are very skeptical of the fairness of the military commission system and then they pull a stunt like this?" she said.

Despite global criticism of the commissions, the Harper government has consistently refused calls to press for Khadr's repatriation.

Yesterday in Ottawa, Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon said Canada recognizes the independence of the U.S. military commission proceedings.

The government was aware of reports about the plea discussions, he said.

Edney called it "dreaming" to think the Canadian government would be involved in plea discussions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Number of jailed women way up

PRISON The number of women locked up as federal offenders has doubled in the last 15 years and an advocacy group says the figure could continue climbing.

This comes as the Conservative government, without giving a specific price tag, concedes that implementing its tough-on-crime legislation will cost billions of dollars.

The director of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies says these policy reforms will likely incarcerate more women, already Canada's fastest-growing prison population.

"We're likely to see disproportionately more women in prisons, particularly indigenous women and women with mental-health issues," Kim Pate said.

In 1994-95, 151 women were handed federal sentences, compared with 313 in 2008-09, according to Correctional Service of Canada statistics. The sharpest increase has occurred in the last several years.

The number of women sentenced federally each year was a fraction of the overall admissions. Still, the incarcerations for females have been increasing each year while male incarcerations have decreased slightly since the early '90s.

In 1994-95, 4,635 men were admitted as federal offenders, compared to 4,512 in 2008-09.

Prisoners are placed under federal jurisdiction when they receive sentences of two years or more. In April 2009, a total of 500 women were serving federal time.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadians owe longer life expectancy to health care: Report

HEALTH When it comes to differences between Canada and the U.S., there is one area at least where we can claim bragging rights: Canadians have the edge when it comes to life expectancy and health-related quality of life.

"Canadians live longer and healthier than Americans," said U.S. health economist David Feeny, lead author of a newly published analysis of a joint Canada-U.S. population health survey. "Mortality rates are lower in Canada and the health related quality of life — the quality of those years — is higher in Canada than in the United States."

The analysis of the 2002-2003 data shows that a 19-year-old in Canada can expect to enjoy 2.7 years more of "perfect health" than an American the same age, said Feeny, an investigator at the Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research.

While populations north and south of the border share many similarities, including standards of living, Feeny said there are two distinct potential explanations for the gap in life expectancy and quality of life: access to health care and the prevalence of poverty.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nothing to sneeze at

- Robert Evans, a health economist at the Centre for Health Services and Policy Research at the University of British Columbia, said the almost three years of extra "perfect health" enjoyed by Canadians compared to Americans is a significant amount.

News in brief

RACISM A member of an Indian health group is accusing Jean Charest of borderline racism because of the Quebec premier's views on asbestos exports to India. Mohit Gupta of the Occupational and Environmental Health Network of India says Charest is dismissing Indians as second-class citizens. Gupta wrote a letter to Charest this week asking the premier to stop exporting asbestos to India.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The airport cat came back
A cat on the loose in Toronto's airport has been found safe after spending a couple of days wandering around a terminal. For two days, a two-year-old cat belonging to a university student prowled Pearson International Airport after escaping from a carrier on Monday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hydro levy illegal, argues consumers group

A consumers group has mounted a legal challenge against a $53.7-million green energy fund that will be raised through a charge on hydro bills.

The Consumers Council of Canada has filed a motion with the Ontario Energy Board challenging the levy, saying it amounts to an illegal tax.

The levy, imposed by the provincial budget, will cost a typical consumer about $4 a year.

Consumers council lawyer Robert Warren said Ontario will likely impose similar levies on customers of the province's two big gas utilities, raising an additional $100 million or more in total.

"It meets the classic definition of an indirect tax." Robert Warren, consumer council lawyer

The money in the electricity fund is to be used for such programs as home energy audits, or helping companies use solar power.

But Warren says the levy is flawed, because it's imposed on local hydro utilities, who in turn raise it from their customers.

"It meets the classic definition of an indirect tax," said Warren in an interview. Since the Constitution doesn't allow provinces to levy indirect taxes, that makes it unconstitutional, he said.

A province can levy what's called a "regulatory charge" for a specific regulatory scheme, but the levy doesn't meet that test, either, he said:

"This is general revenue for general use by the ministry of energy and infrastructure."

The C.D. Howe Institute has also argued that the levy is unconstitutional.

Warren said the levy is bad policy as well as bad law.

"These burdens are all really in essence taxes, and they're regressive taxes," he said. "They're levied on consumers on the basis of the volume of electricity they use, and not on the basis of their income."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Polygamy court case will proceed without Bountiful leader, says lawyer

COURT Admitted polygamist Winston Blackmore won't participate in a British Columbia court case testing Canada's law against polygamy, says his lawyer.

Blackmore, one of the leaders of the controversial community of Bountiful, B.C., can't afford to take part after a judge refused his request for hundreds of thousands of dollars in government money, Joseph Arvay said in an interview yesterday.

Winston Blackmore

"Unless he wins the lottery or some other source of funds comes his way, he will not be participating," Arvay said.

"His involvement and participation in the reference would require a huge amount more legal services than one of the many varied interveners ... Blackmore can't afford it."

Blackmore had asked the province's Supreme Court for special status and funding to take part in the case, expected to be heard in the fall.

Blackmore and James Oler, the leader of a separate faction within Bountiful, were charged early last year with practising polygamy in a case that has dogged the B.C. government and RCMP for decades.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

COLLISION A tractor-trailer rig has slammed into a second truck in B.C.'s southern Interior, sending one of the rigs into Nicola Lake, about 300 kilometres northeast of Vancouver. No one is seriously injured but fuel is reported to be leaking from the chip truck that is partially submerged in the lake.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Girl, 10, survives jellyfish sting

A 10-year-old girl in Australia has baffled experts by surviving a run-in with a highly venomous box jellyfish, the sting of which can kill an adult within minutes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Belgium's first female PM?

Belgian Premier Yves Leterme stepped aside yesterday, to be replaced by Marianne Thyssen, 53, left, at the head of Belgium's long-dominant Dutch-speaking Christian Democrats into early elections, likely in June. If Thyssen's party remains Belgium's largest in elections, she will likely form the next government and become the country's first female prime minister. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Just ridiculous'

Britain's bedraggled Prime Minister Gordon Brown waltzed into a political train wreck yesterday after forgetting to turn off his microphone.

He described a loyal Labour voter as a bigot for asking about immigration, blamed advisers for a "disaster" ahead of next week's election, then rushed back to the voter's house to beg her forgiveness.

Grandmother Gillian Duffy, 66, met with Brown at a campaign stop in the northern town of Rochdale and questioned him about the influx of eastern European immigrants who have come to Britain. Many people are angry that immigrants are taking jobs at a time when Britain's unemployment level is soaring. Brown brushed the question aside, leaving in his car in a hurry and forgetting to turn off his microphone.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gordon Brown

"That was a disaster, they should never have put me with that woman. Whose idea was that? It's just ridiculous," Brown is heard saying. Asked what she had said to upset him, Brown said: "Everything. She's just a sort of bigoted woman."

Brown's gaffe was immediately broadcast and he was then grilled about it on a televised radio show. Brown said he realized he had made a mistake and regretted the remarks.

Brown sits third in opinion polls for the general election and is desperate to show his supposedly statesmanlike credentials. Ironically, his campaign team overhauled their strategy this week, betting that more contact between their leader and ordinary people would revive his flagging election hopes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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DAVID GUTTENFELDER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thai soldiers fire on anti-government protesters during clashes near Bangkok yesterday.

Soldier killed during protest

CLASH Thai troops fired rifles and threw tear gas at a crowd of anti-government protesters riding motorbikes down a busy expressway yesterday, blocking their effort to take the demonstrations that have paralyzed central Bangkok into the suburbs.

The hourslong confrontation killed one soldier — apparently from friendly fire — and wounded 18 other people as it transformed the suburban streets into a battle zone, with heavily armed troops taking cover behind terrified commuters' cars.

Security officials suggested the possibility of an escalation in the violence. The bloodshed yesterday was the first violent confrontation in nearly a week, and protest leaders accused the government of leading the nation to the brink of civil war. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Tokyo's population passes 13 million

The population of Japan's capital — one of the biggest cities in the world — has surpassed 13 million for the first time, up 0.5 per cent from the same month a year earlier. The growth contrasts with the overall demographic trend in Japan, where people have long lifespans and stubbornly low birth rates THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Knife attack puts 15 kids in hospital

Latest violent incident at a Chinese school

A teacher wielding a knife broke into a primary school in southern China and stabbed 15 students and a teacher yesterday, the same day another school attacker was executed for killing eight children last month, police and state media reported.

The attacker taught at another primary school nearby, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

None of the 15 students nor the teacher is in life-threatening condition, said the director of the command centre at the Leizhou Public security Bureau, who gave his name as Qin.

The attacker, identified by a local official as Chen Kangbing, broke into Leicheng No. 1 Primary School in Leizhou city about 3 p.m. and hacked at the students and teacher, Xinhua said. He teaches at the Hongguan Primary School in nearby Baisha town, the report said. He is in police custody.

The fourth- and fifth-graders were stabbed in their heads, backs and arms, Xinhua said, citing comments from Li Changwu, Leizhou city's Communist Party secretary.

A nurse at emergency clinic of Leizhou People's Hospital said staff there treated eight of the students for knife wounds to the head.

A man from surgical department of Leizhou Hospital of Chinese Medicine said seven students were treated there. He refused to give his name. Calls to the school rang unanswered.

It is not known where the other students or teacher were treated. There was no immediate word on a motive for the attack.

China has witnessed a series of school attacks in recent years, most blamed on people with personal grudges or suffering from mental illness, leading to calls for improved security.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eerie coincidence

Yesterday's attack came on the same day that Zheng Minsheng, 42, was executed in neighbouring Fujian province for the March 23 murders of eight children outside their elementary school as they waited with their parents for classes to start. During his trial last month, Zheng admitted to killing the children because he had been upset after being jilted by a woman and treated badly by her wealthy family.

India arrests alleged spy

DIPLOMACY India is investigating a serious breach of security after arresting a diplomat accused of spying for Pakistan while posted at the Indian Embassy in Islamabad, India's foreign minister said yesterday.

Madhuri Gupta, 53, a second secretary at the embassy, was recalled to New Delhi and arrested at her home in the Indian capital.

Foreign Minister S.M. Krishna told NDTV news channel that the case was being investigated by the Home Affairs Ministry. Gupta is accused of passing information to Pakistani intelligence agencies, External Affairs Ministry spokesman Vishnu Prakash said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

China **AIDS controversy**

ANDY WONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Chinese government has scrapped a 20-year travel ban that barred people with HIV and AIDS from entering the country, just days ahead of the opening of the Shanghai Expo, which hopes to welcome millions of overseas visitors. In this file photo, a woman whose son was infected with HIV wears a face mask bearing the words "Blood products infect us with AIDS" in Beijing on World AIDS Day last December.

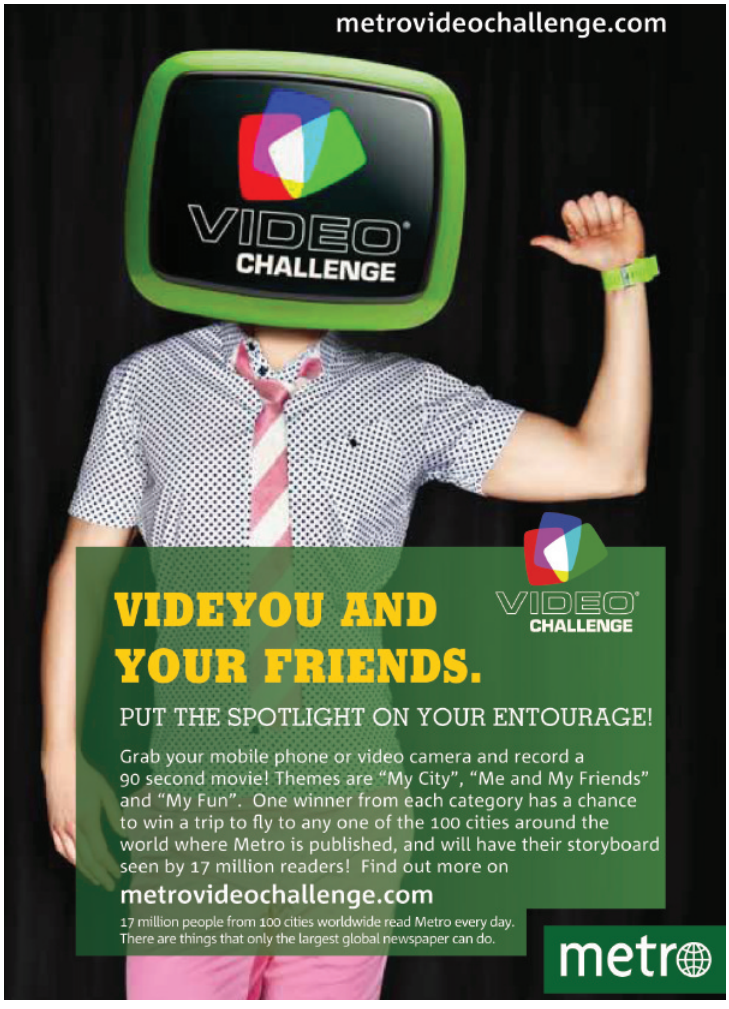
First a lucky loonie, now a lucky goose

LUCK A Canada goose with a hunter's 66-centimetre arrow sticking out of its chest picked the right place to land.

"This is a smart goose," said Bernard Levine, the retired veterinarian in whose Toms River, N.J., backyard the wounded bird showed up in a few weeks ago. "He happened to come into the yard of a veterinarian that could take care of him."

So Levine, 82, fed the goose, helped capture it, performed lifesaving surgery and transported it to the state's largest bird rehabilitation facility.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Police track down man who found iPhone prototype
Police have located to the man who found an iPhone prototype at a bar last month, according to media reports. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Venezuela **Presidential protector**

ARIANA CUBILLOS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eva Golinger, a Venezuela-American lawyer and political activist, speaks during an interview with the Associated Press in Caracas recently. Golinger uses social-networking sites and her blog to defend Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez from online critics.

Pope may say sorry for abuses

Pope Benedict XVI may issue a mea culpa for the church's handling of clerical sexual abuse cases when he attends a meeting of the world's clergy in June, the Vatican official in charge of handling abuse cases said.

Cardinal William Levada also said he intended to hold up the U.S. policy dealing with abuse as a model for bishops around the word.

Levada, head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, made the comments in an interview broadcast late Tuesday on U.S. public broadcaster PBS, his first interview since the scandal erupted.

"It's a big crisis. I think no one should try to diminish that," Levada said. He acknowledged that the Vatican was caught by surprise, even though it was aware of the scope of the U.S. and Irish crises, and blamed "a certain media bias" for keeping the story alive.

As the scandal has raged around the Vatican, Benedict has come under increasing pressure to admit some form of higher responsibility on the part of the Vatican for fomenting a culture of secrecy that allowed abuse to fester unchecked for decades.

Benedict has expressed his sorrow and shame for the abuse, he has wept with victims and promised new measures to protect children and bring justice to pedophile priests. But he has admitted no personal or institutional responsibility, blaming instead the abusers themselves and their bishops for mishandling cases.

American way

- The U.S. norms bar credibly accused priests from any public church work while claims against them are under investigation.

Italian news reports this week suggested Benedict would use the June 9-11 meeting of the world's priests at the Vatican to issue some form of apology.

The meeting was initially called to simply mark the end of the Vatican's Year of the Priest. A few weeks ago, as Benedict came under fire in the abuse scandal, the meeting's focus shifted and its organizers signalled it would instead be a giant pep rally to show solidarity with the besieged pontiff.

Now, it appears it will be also be a forum for Benedict to make a strong statement apologizing for abuse. Asked about the reports that a papal mea culpa would be issued, Levada said: "Whether he is going to do that or not we'll have to wait and see, but I wouldn't be surprised."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Aussies move to keep ban on whale hunting

WHALING Australia rejected an International Whaling Commission proposal that would allow limited commercial whaling for the first time in 25 years, dismissing it yesterday as a huge step back for whale conservation efforts.

There has been a ban on commercial whaling since 1986, but Japan, Norway and Iceland still catch whales under various exceptions sanctioned by the IWC, such as scientific research. In Japan, whale meat not used for research is sold as food, which critics including Australia contend is the real reason for the hunt.

Last week, the IWC put forth a proposal that would allow whaling nations to hunt without specifying whether it is for commercial or other purposes, but in lower numbers than they do now. The proposal will be debated at the commission's meeting in Morocco in June.

Yestserday, Environment Minister Peter Garrett said the proposal was inadequate, and instead called for a five-year phase-out of all whaling in the waters off Antarctica, and an immediate ban on scientific whaling permits.

"The proposal before us falls well short of any outcome that Australia could accept," Garrett said in a speech at The Australian National University. "We believe that should the chair's proposal be implemented without substantive change, it would set whale conservation back by decades."

Each year, Japan travels to the waters off Antarctica to hunt whales under its scientific program. Activists from the U.S.-based Sea Shepherd conservation group pursue the whalers, occasionally leading to violent clashes.

Australia has given Japan until November to end the Antarctic hunts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

NORIEGA A lawyer for former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega says he is sick and struggling to settle into a French prison, but is in fighting spirits after spending his first night in Paris' La Sante prison after being extradited from the United States. He was deposed in a U.S. invasion in 1989, then spent 20 years in a Miami prison on drug trafficking charges. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenyan pilot's error led to airline disaster: Report

The pilot of a Kenya Airways flight that crashed and killed all 114 people on board three years ago didn't notice the plane was banking right and when he did finally notice he turned farther right, triggering a downward spiral, an investigative report released yesterday found. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hezbollah defends its arsenal

A Hezbollah official yesterday slammed comments by the U.S. defence secretary accusing the group of having more weapons than most governments in the world, and pledged to continue arming.

Lawmaker Hassan Fadlallah said Hezbollah's weapons and those of the U.S. and its ally Israel are not to be compared.

His remarks, which were published by the Lebanese daily As-Safir, came in response to statements made by Defence Secretary Robert Gates accusing Syria and Iran of supplying Hezbollah with increasingly sophisticated weaponry.

"We are at a point now where Hezbollah has far more rockets and missiles than most governments in the world."
U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates

"We are at a point now where Hezbollah has far more rockets and missiles than most governments in the world," Gates said Tuesday in Washington after a meeting with the Israeli Defence Minister, Ehud Barak.

Israel has accused Syria of providing Hezbollah with Scud missiles, which have a greater range and can carry a bigger warhead than the rockets Hezbollah fired at Israel in the past. Syria has denied the allegations.

"Our choice was and still is to secure all the arms of resistance that we can," Fadlallah said. "There is a great difference between weapons that only serve invasions, occupations and aggressions, such as those of the United States and its ally Israel ... and weapons of an honourable resistance that liberates, protects, and defends."

The reports prompted the Obama administration to say last week that it has warned Syria that transferring ballistic missiles to Hezbollah could spark war.

Obama's homeland security and counterterrorism adviser, John Brennan, called alleged weapons smuggling to Hezbollah a "threat to the stability and security of Lebanon and the region." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egypt **Devastating sentence**

AMR NABIL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A relative of Palestinian Nedal Fathi grieves yesterday outside a courthouse in New Cairo, Egypt. Fathi is one of 26 suspected Hezbollah members whom an Egyptian judge today gave harsh jail sentences for their suspected roles in plotting attacks on tourists and shipping in the Suez Canal and sending operatives and explosives to Gaza to help militant groups there.

Sensitive war papers go online

PUBLICATION Russia's state archives posted documents on the Internet for the first time yesterday about the Soviet Union's Second World War massacre of more than 20,000 Polish officers and other prominent citizens.

The step was a gesture to Poland in a case that looms large in Polish history and has soured relations between the two countries.

President Dmitry Medvedev ordered the documents posted on the archives' Russian-language website. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New law curtails army powers

LAW The Mexican Senate passed a measure Tuesday to make soldiers accountable to civilian courts for abuses involving civilians, and to ensure the use of troops in actions like the offensive against drug cartels is temporary.

The legislation now goes to Congress' lower house, the Chamber of Deputies, for consideration.

Mexico's army has increasingly been used to perform policing duties in the drug war, and complaints have piled up about illegal detentions, searches and shootings by soldiers.

Under the current rules, soldiers who allegedly commit abuses while on duty are tried in military courts; abuses committed off duty go to civilian courts.

The bill passed by the Senate on a 105-1 vote would make it mandatory for soldiers accused of such offences be tried in civilian courts. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

Government's buzz about birds, bees

Relating

It can be awkward when your government sits you down for a sex talk.

Brazil's health minister, Jose Temporao, is urging the citizenry to have more sex, citing evidence that it lowers blood pressure.

While I'm certain the average Brazilian is already having as much sex as he or she can without government encouragement, this seems a reasonably healthy state intervention in the national sex life.

It contrasts sharply with the anti-fun stance of Iranian officialdom, with cleric Hojatoleslam Kazem Sadighi commingling the geological and the theological to causally link women wearing revealing clothing and earthquakes.

The imam's goofy theory inspired Indiana blogger Jen McCreight to get on Facebook and organize this past Monday's Boobquake, in which she encouraged women worldwide to show a bit of cleavage and see if they could get a seismic rise out of the Earth.

A Boobquake rally at the Vancouver Art Gallery was a study in attitudinal diversity as a few women decided to go over-the-topless while others complained that men were looking. The country is unlikely to achieve sexual consensus any time soon.

Homosexuality, abortion and birth control were all once illegal here, and our current federal government still seems squeamish. Immigration Minister Jason Kenney personally deleted references to homosexuality and same-sex marriage from the new citizenship guide, and International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda has provoked an outcry in some quarters by excluding abortion from maternal health programs in developing countries.

It can swing the other way, too, as some citizens find their government entirely too kinky. Witness the Ontario government's new sex education curriculum, hastily withdrawn for retooling last week after some church groups and parents complained the content was both too sexy and too educational.

Public libraries are constant sexual battlegrounds. The American Libraries Association has released its 2009 list of most complained about books, and the children's book And Tango Makes Three, based on the true story of a same-sex penguin couple in New York's Central Park Zoo, was one of the most controversial for the fourth year running.

Pierre Trudeau's declaration that the state has no place in the bedrooms of the nation is often quoted, but the separation of libido and state is not so easily achieved. Before voting for a candidate, it might be wise to consider your sexual compatibility should he or she come out on top.

Steve Collins offers his best guesses on relationships for Metro every two weeks.

Views

The lighter side of feminism revealed

FourthWave

People often say feminists lack any sense of humour. That isn't true and I offer up Boobquake and Ben Roethlisberger as examples.

It all started when Iranian cleric Hojatoleslam Kazem Sedighi reportedly warned, "Many women who do not dress modestly ... lead young men astray, corrupt their chastity and spread adultery in society, which increases earthquakes."

Many scoffed. One blogger, Jen McCreight of blaghag.com, was determined to scientifically disprove his theory. Thus, Boobquake was born: Women would "embrace the supposed supernatural power of their breasts" and seek to make the Earth tremble by wearing the lowest-cut shirts they owned.

Monday has come and gone — and guess what? No out-of-the-norm earthquakes activity.

It's unfortunate that this tongue-in-cheek protest was reduced to a circus-like opportunity to ogle. Apparently, some Boobquake events drew more male photographers than busty participants, but I'm loathe to call it un-feminist just because of a few overactive sex drives and cellphone cameras.

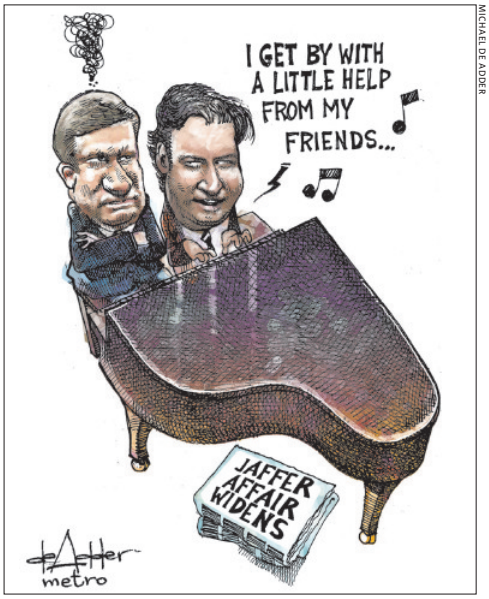
Moral truths are sometimes so obvious, they're plain as day. It was, too, for football fans following the saga of Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, who has been suspended after another allegation of sexual assault.

I have negative interest in football, but what's not to love after reading this tweet from Vinnie Malhotra, executive producer for ESPN, from the floor of the NFL Draft: "Guy in a Roethlisberger jersey walking by at the NFL Draft. Crowd starts chanting 'No Means No!'"

I'm glad this commonsense mantra has percolated into the mainstream.

Of course, with all the wacky things being said and done in Iran, it's no stretch to scoff at its leaders. Nor is it a difficult moral decision to shun an athlete twice accused of sexual assault. These are obvious things. I hope people can take their instinctual "Hey, that's not right" reactions toward Boobquake or Roethlisberger and carry that with them into the future.

Canice Leung is a former editor of Ryerson University feminist magazine McClung's, copy editor at Metro, ardent feminist and loudmouth.



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AOL shares take a tumble

AOL Inc.'s shares plunged yesterday as it reported lower-than-expected first-quarter revenue and it warned advertising sales would remain under pressure through the rest of the year. AOL, whose shares tumbled 13 per cent in late morning trading, is going through a sales reorganization. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Recession aftermath

Canada's recession was short — and in some regions brutish — but the aftermath will be almost as challenging, three new separate reports on the economy suggest.

The reports from the country's budget watchdog, Statistics Canada and one of the leading economic think tanks, the Conference Board, are remarkably similar in detailing what Canada lost during the recession and the problems it faces in recovery.

Putting it in economic terms, Statistics Canada concludes the country's gross domestic product shrank 2.9 per cent last year, slightly more than its original estimate.

But not all regions experienced the recession in the same way. Newfoundland's economy fell back a massive 10.2 per cent, while two tiny economies, Prince Edward Island and the Yukon, did not contract at all.

Ontario's economy shrank 3.1 per cent.

In dollar terms, the parliamentary budget office estimates that by 2014, when the economy returns to normal, Canada will have suffered a cumulative total of $225 billion in lost output.

By 2014, a different set of challenges will be facing Canadians and their governments, says the Conference Board's Pedro Antunes. In a far-reaching outlook, Antunes says 2014 is when the real impact of the retiring baby boom generation will start being felt in Canada's labour market, economy and government budgets. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Lebanon **Tension-free resort**

HUSSEIN MALLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

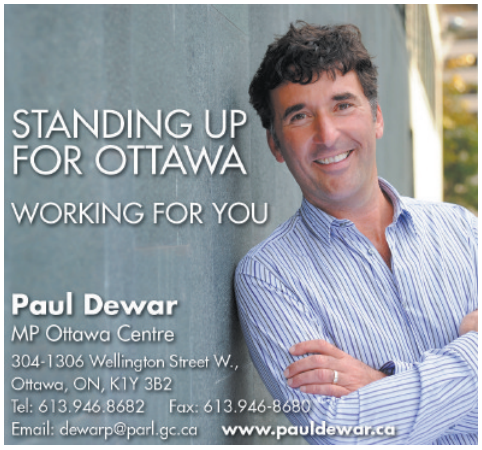
Khalil Abdullah, 56, a Lebanese businessman who recently returned to settle in Lebanon after 40 years spent working as a contractor in Africa, gestures as he stands on a hill above his resort, under construction near the Lebanon-Israel border. The "Wazzani Fortress" as the $3-million project is called, is one of several resorts sprouting up along the tense border with Israel in what investors hope will be a new tourist attraction.

Business in brief

TECH Global technology suppliers face a looming Chinese deadline to reveal the inner workings of computer encryption and other security products in a move the United States and Europe say is protectionist. Suppliers must comply with the rules that take effect Saturday or risk being shut out of the billions of dollars in purchases that the Chinese government makes of smart cards, secure routers, anti-spam software and other security products. Encryption codes and other trade secrets would have to be disclosed to a government panel, and the foreign companies worry they might be leaked to Chinese rivals.

GOLD Barrick Gold Corp. says higher gold prices and increased production volumes helped it achieve record earnings in the first quarter. The world's biggest gold miner reported yesterday that its net income more than doubled to $758 million US, or 76 cents per share, beating analyst expectations of 62.3 cents per share, according to estimates compiled by Thomson Reuters.

CP RAIL Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd. says its first quarter net profits rose 74 per cent to $100 million as the company benefited from an improving economy as well as cost controls. METRO NEWS SERVICES



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China loses medal after gymnast found to be underage

The International Olympic Committee has stripped China of its bronze medal from the women's team competition at the 2000 Sydney Games for using an underage gymnast. Dong Fangxiao's results from Sydney were wiped out in February after the International Gymnastics Federation determined she was only 14 at the 2000 Olympics. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Blog post costs Howard

Even on a day off, Dwight Howard can antagonize officials enough to draw a penalty. The Orlando Magic centre was fined $35,000 US by the NBA yesterday for criticizing officials on his blog. Howard was in chronic foul trouble and constantly complaining about officiating in the Magic's series sweep over Charlotte.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

NICK WASS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Montreal Canadiens goalie Jaroslav Halak fights for the puck with Washington Capitals centre Brendan Morrison last night.

Halak stuns Capitals

(Montreal wins series 4-3)

Capitals 1 Canadiens 2

Jaroslav Halak's continued mastery of the Washington Capitals has propelled the eighth-seeded Montreal Canadiens into the second round of the Stanley Cup playoffs.

Marc-Andre Bergeron and Dominic Moore scored for Montreal and Halak made 41 saves as the Canadiens shocked the Capitals 2-1 in Game 7 of their Eastern Conference quarter-final series last night.

The Canadiens became the first No. 8 seed to erase a 3-1 series deficit to knock off a top seed since the NHL switched to the current playoff format in 1994.

Brooks Laich scored late in the third to bring the Capitals to within a goal, but they couldn't convert on a power play over the final 1:44 of regulation to tie it up.

The league's best power play in the regular season went 1-for-33 in the series, a key reason why Capitals' off-season has started early.

The Capitals had a dominant regular season in winning the Presidents' Trophy with 121 points — 33 more than the Canadiens — and leading the league with 318 goals scored.

But that offence disappeared when it was needed most, largely because of Halak, who stopped 131 of 134 shots in winning the final three games of the series.

By leading his team back from the brink, Halak — the 271st overall choice in the 2003 entry draft — has written his name into the history books of the league's most successful franchise.

His Washington counterpart Semyon Varlamov wasn't nearly as busy in Game 7, but allowed two goals on 16 shots to lose his third straight game.

For the Capitals and the NHL's most exciting player Alexander Ovechkin, it was yet another playoff disappointment after bowing out in seven games to the eventual Stanley Cup champion Pittsburgh Penguins in round two last year.

Those same Penguins will be waiting for the Canadiens in Pittsburgh to start their conference quarter-final series Friday night at Mellon Arena.

The game wasn't without controversy as Ovechkin appeared to tie the game at 24 seconds into the third period, but it was instantly waved off by referee Brad Watson because he deemed that Mike Knuble interfered with Halak.

Washington kept coming throughout the third, outshooting Montreal 18-5 over the final 20 minutes, but the Canadiens made it 2-0 when Moore beat Varlamov with a shot to the far side at 16:24 on the Canadiens 16th and final shot of the game. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fins boss to probe prostitute question

NFL Miami Dolphins owner Stephen Ross will "take appropriate actions if necessary" against general manager Jeff Ireland for asking former Oklahoma State receiver Dez Bryant whether his mother was ever a prostitute.

Ireland apologized for the question, and the NFL players union raised concerns yesterday about discrimination and degradation.

Ross issued a statement saying he'll look into the matter personally.

"As an owner of many companies and organizations, including the Miami Dolphins, I have always strived to comply with the highest standards in all aspects of my businesses, including recruiting," Ross said.

"In interviewing employees, we always look to obtain relevant and appropriate information in adherence with the best industry practices."

An NFL statement said Ireland "exercised poor judgment in asking an insensitive and inappropriate question."

League spokesman Greg Aiello added, "Steve Ross's statement makes clear that the Miami Dolphins intend to address this matter promptly in an effective and thoughtful way."

Aiello said Ireland "took the proper step of calling Dez Bryant to apologize and then making that apology public."

Ireland's apology came only after Yahoo Sports reported that he posed the question several weeks ago during a pre-draft interview with Bryant.

"My mom is not a prostitute," Bryant told Yahoo Sports.

As for his reaction to Ireland's question: "I got mad — really mad — but I didn't show it." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Character issues

- Before the draft, Bryant's background received extensive scrutiny from NFL teams because of concerns about character issues. He was taken by the Dallas Cowboys with the 24th pick in the first round last Thursday.

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NHL PLAYOFFS

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Montreal 2 Washington 1

PLAYOFF SCORING LEADERS

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Crosby, Pgh	5	9	14
Samuelsson, Vcr	7	4	11
Zetterberg, Det	6	5	11
Cammalleri, Mtl	5	5	10
Ovechkin, Wash	5	5	10
D.Sedin, Vcr	4	6	10
Backstrom, Wash	5	4	9
Datsyuk, Det	5	3	8
Pavelski, SJ	5	3	8
Malkin, Pgh	4	4	8
Cullen, Ott	**3**	**5**	**8**
Alfredsson, Ott	**2**	**6**	**8**
Richards, Pha	2	6	8
Toews, Chi	2	6	8
Clowe, SJ	1	7	8
H.Sedin, Vcr	1	7	8
Kane, Chi	4	3	7
Plekanec, Mtl	4	3	7
Doughty, LA	3	4	7
Filppula, Det	3	4	7
Sharp, Chi	3	4	7
Legwand, Nash	2	5	7
Franzen, Det	1	6	7

NBA PLAYOFFS

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Milwaukee at Atlanta

Utah at Denver

BASEBALL

YESTERDAY'S AL RESULTS

Seattle 6 Kansas City 5

Cleveland at L.A. Angels

Minnesota at Detroit

N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore

Boston at Toronto

Oakland at Tampa Bay

Chicago White Sox at Texas

YESTERDAY'S NL RESULTS

Arizona 12 Colorado 11 (10 ings)

Pittsburgh 6 Milwaukee 5 (14 ings)

N.Y. Mets 7 L.A. Dodgers 3

San Diego 6 Florida 4

Philadelphia 7 San Francisco 6 (11 ings)

Washington 3 Chicago Cubs 2

Cincinnati at Houston

Atlanta at St. Louis

Coyotes look to build on success

NHL The lead-up to this season for the Phoenix Coyotes started in bankruptcy court, and the year ended with a crushing Game 7 defeat in the first round of the playoffs.

In between, the Coyotes unexpectedly put together the best season in their 30-year history.

"This year didn't start out obviously remotely the way that I would have liked it to and it hasn't finished the way I would have liked it to either, but as a group, it was an unbelievable time," captain Shane Doan said.

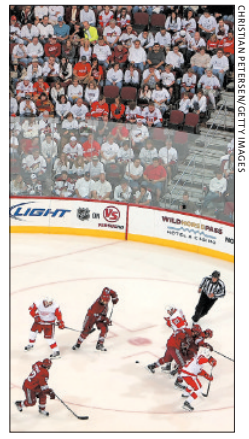
Along the way Phoenix set multiple franchise records, ended a playoff drought that stretched back to 2002 and revitalized its fan base.

The Coyotes' 50 wins and 107 points were both fourth best in the NHL. Phoenix took the two-time defending Western Conference champion Detroit Red Wings to seven games, and after playing in a half-empty home arena for much of the season, ended the year with eight straight sellouts.

Now the Coyotes are hoping they can turn their storybook run into the foundation for long-term success.

"I think we made strong steps that way this year," coach Dave Tippett said.

Phoenix heads into the off-season again facing uncertainty, but there is a high level of optimism and excitement surrounding this team that wasn't there before. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

A crowd in Glendale, Ariz., watches the Phoenix Coyotes lose Game 7 to the Detroit Red Wings on Tuesday night.

Changes made to MLB all-star game
The designated hitter will be used in the all-star game every year, and rosters will be expanded again to 34 under changes made by baseball's special committee for on-field matters. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In Red Wings, Sharks meet their role model

When the San Jose Sharks hired former Detroit assistant Todd McLellan as their head coach two years ago, they were looking to duplicate some of the post-season success the Red Wings had enjoyed.

Now they get to find out if the imitation is as good as the original when the two teams meet in a Western Conference second-round series beginning tonight in San Jose.

McLellan brought over many of the philosophies he learned in Detroit under coach Mike Babcock, most notably a strong emphasis on puck possession.

"It's a copycat league," Sharks defenceman Douglas Murray said. "It always has been and probably always will be. When you have successful franchises like Detroit, teams are going to copy it. If it's successful why not try to use it?"

The one thing the Sharks haven't been able to emulate is Detroit's post-season success. The Sharks have not made it past the second round in their past four trips to the post-season, including a second-round loss to the Red Wings in 2007.

A playoff rematch has seemed inevitable because of how much talent both teams have. But early exits the past two seasons by San Jose have delayed that.

"They play a similar style to us," Detroit forward Henrik Zetterberg said.

"We've been facing them a lot the last few years in the playoffs. It's usually a really good series. It's well-played hockey and it's exciting for the fans."

Despite being the two best teams in the NHL since the start of the 2005-06 season, the 2007 series is the only post-season meeting in that span.

The Red Wings were knocked out in the first round by Edmonton in 2006, the Sharks fell in the second round to Dallas in 2008 with the Red Wings waiting in the Western Conference finals and San Jose lost in the first round last season despite having the best record in the NHL.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Day off for Wings

- The Red Wings flew to the Bay Area Tuesday night and took yesterday off to try to be as fresh as possible for tonight's series opener.

Inter holds on to reach Champions League final

SOCCER Inter Milan lost 1-0 at Barcelona yesterday but still reached its first Champions League final in 38 years by beating the defending champion 3-2 on aggregate.

The Italian champion braved continuous pressure from the slick-passing Catalans to line up a final against Bayern Munich May 22 in Madrid after winning the first leg 3-1.

Defender Gerard Pique scored in the 84th minute after Inter had frustrated Barcelona's attack.

Inter was reduced to 10 men from the 28th minute when Thiago Motta picked up a second yellow card after tangling with Sergio Busquets.

Inter held on in front of nearly 100,000 fans at the Camp Nou to give itself a chance at a third title — and first since 1965.

Moments after Barcelona substitute Bojan Krkic headed a clear chance wide, Pique received the ball inside the area before twisting past a defender and goalkeeper Julio Cesar and drilling his shot on the turn into an empty net.

Lionel Messi was given little room to roam, but the Argentina winger had a chance late after having delivered a perfect cross for Krkic in the 82nd minute.

Krkic found the back of the net in injury time but his strike was ruled out for a handball by Yaya Toure in the buildup.

Inter coach Jose Mourinho and his players sprinted onto the field to celebrate at the final whistle. Barcelona goalkeeper Victor Valdes tangled with Mourinho as he pointed up to the Inter section of fans.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JASPER JUINEN/GETTY IMAGES

Gerard Pique of FC Barcelona scores his side's opening goal yesterday during their UEFA Champions League semifinal match against Inter Milan at the Camp Nou in Barcelona.

Czech Republic, Slovakia consider establishing common soccer league

Czech Republic and Slovak soccer officials are considering setting up a common league for the two countries that once formed one state — Czechoslovakia. The Czech federation said in a statement yesterday it will work together with its Slovak counterpart and UEFA on the project. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GREGORY SHAMUS/GETTY IMAGES

Cleveland's LeBron James tries to get a shot off against Brad Miller of the Chicago Bulls in Game 5 of the Eastern Conference quarter-finals Tuesday.

Elbow room: LeBron's puzzling injury

LeBron James's ambidexterity makes him special — perhaps the most skilled basketball player on the planet.

James can drive, dribble and create with either hand. It's not widely known that James writes with his left. He never shoots free throws that way.

He did Tuesday.

Bothered by a puzzling injury that numbs his elbow, James curiously launched and missed a free throw left-handed in the closing seconds of Cleveland's 96-94 playoff win over Chicago, adding some unexpected late-night drama to the Cavaliers advancing to a second-round matchup against Boston.

James revealed afterward that the elbow has been troubling him for weeks. He underwent treatment yesterday and is expected to have further testing done before Saturday's Game 1.

X-rays and an MRI taken Monday showed no obvious structural damage, but clearly something is wrong with James's elbow, which he has covered recently with a padded, protective sleeve.

"I don't know, honestly, what's going on with it," James said after finishing one assist shy of a triple-double in Game 5.

"I've done tests to try and figure this thing out, but it almost feels like you hit your funny bone and it kind of numbs up for a little bit.

"It bothers me more because I don't actually know what it is. We'll figure it out. I've never had a problem with my elbow before."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Maver ready to adopt a new home following CFL Canadian college draft

FOOTBALL Rob Maver can't wait for Sunday.

That's when months of uncertainty will end for the Guelph Gryphons kicker-punter, who will finally know where he will begin his pro football career when the CFL conducts its annual Canadian college draft (TSN, noon ET).

"I'm getting anxious," Maver said with a chuckle yesterday. "I'd be lying if I said otherwise.

"It's worse than waiting for Christmas when you're a five-year-old kid."

And not just for Maver, 24, of Brampton.

"I'm not nearly as anxious as my family," he said.

"They're going crazy in a good way.

"My family is moving out to B.C. so I'm not going to have a home base in Toronto and Brampton anymore. Whatever team takes me, I'm going to call that place home so I can fully commit to that team and be there in the off-season working out with the guys so I can be fully committed to getting better. That's why I'm so eager to find out where I will be calling home."

"I'm getting anxious. I'd be lying if I said otherwise. ... It's worse than waiting for Christmas when you're a five-year-old kid." Brampton's Rob Maver on the CFL draft

Fortunately, the five-foot-11, 212-pound Maver shouldn't have to wait long to hear his name called.

He's ranked sixth among the draft's top-15 prospects according to the CFL's scouting bureau and is the only kicker to crack the list.

He was the only kicker invited to the CFL's evaluation camp in March in Toronto, where Maver quashed the notion kickers aren't athletic. Maver not only participated fully in the drills but bench-pressed 225 pounds 11 times and completed the 40-yard dash in 4.97 seconds.

But that's no surprise to Kyle Walters, the Winnipeg Blue Bombers special-teams coach who was Maver's head coach at Guelph.

"Rob is a football player that happens to kick the ball," Walters said.

"He works out hard, he trains hard, he loves football, he loves practice and helps out wherever he can.

"If he chose to play receiver or defensive back in high school or someone hadn't found out he could kick the ball so far he'd still be playing football at another position, I guarantee you that."

Maver's kicking skills are definitely in demand in the CFL. The Toronto Argonauts, Calgary Stampeders and Hamilton Tiger-Cats all need either a punter or kicker, creating no shortage of intrigue heading into the draft. At first glance, Toronto would appear to have the best shot at landing Maver considering it has three picks in the first 11 (first, eighth and 11th). Trouble is, the rebuilding Argos — who had a league-worst 3-15 record last year — have many needs to address in the draft and can't be guaranteed Maver would be available even at No. 8.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

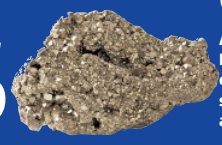
5-year fixed mortgage rates
PROVIDED BY RATESUPERMARKET.CA

BMO	CIBC	HSBC	ICICI	ING	RBC	Scotia	TD	Broker
6.25%	6.25%	6.10%	6.10%	4.59%	6.25%	6.25%	6.25%	4.44%

Rates may vary by province; check RateSupermarket.ca for the best rates in your area.

RateSupermarket.ca
Canada's rate comparison website

Metro Homes



Ooh, sparkly

A dazzling mineral mass, this Pyrite Cluster is perfect to perch on desktops or to tuck into bookshelves. Anthropologie, $48, anthropologie.com.

JENNIFER BILL/FOR METRO CANADA

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

5-year variable mortgage rates
PROVIDED BY RATESUPERMARKET.CA

BMO	CIBC	HSBC	ICICI	ING	RBC	Scotia	TD	Broker
2.10%	2.25%	2.25%	3.50%	1.75%	2.10%	2.10%	2.10%	1.70%

Fun at home with your refund

RefundFun

DENISE SURETTE
for Metro Canada

Spring is a great time to get started on sprucing up your home — spring-cleaning is done, summer entertaining is on its way and your tax refund cheque is in the mail.

No matter what your price range is, adding a few luxury items to your home can enhance the time you spend there — creating an atmosphere of fun, relaxation and style.

Nice three-piece
Refund
$130

This contemporary three-piece bistro set from Canadian Tire is a chic way to dress up any patio or balcony. It's great for early morning coffee in the summer or a romantic dinner at sunset.

"Two folding sling chairs and sturdy frame make storing easy during the winter months," says Radha Bharania, spokesperson for Canadian Tire.

Brand-new BBQ
Refund
$600

Adding a brand new barbecue to your patio is the perfect way to kick off summer for family and guests. The Broil King BBQ from Sears has 400 square inches of cooking surface and 235 square inches for its warming rack to make sure there's enough room for everyone's steak. It also has a stainless steel Flav-R-Wave cooking system, which instantly vapourizes drippings. A deluxe rotisserie kit is also included.

Nine-ball
Refund
$1000

If you have extra space in your rec-room, a pool table is a fun addition for get-togethers for you and the kids. A Mizerak Donovan Billiards Table from Sears comes with cues, balls, a triangle, chalk and a brush — everything to get you started on your game.

Hot tub luxury
Refund
$5000

For year-round luxury, a hot tub is the ultimate home addition. The Outlaw from Arctic Spa can fit five to seven people comfortably for a relaxing soak with 18 powerful jets. "With multi-level spacious seating for the very tall, very small and everyone in between, the Outlaw is perfect for families of all sizes," says Philip Edey, spokesperson for Arctic Spa. It also has a wall plug option, which enables the Outlaw to be plugged into any outlet to provide easy and economical installation.

Nice looks with **knick-knacks**

JENNIFER BILL
for Metro Canada

Every room needs a knick-knack or two.

These personal little decor touches can be whimsical and cute, creative and functional, comprising a collection or a treasured find, or perhaps a cultural relic carrying memories of time abroad.

Whether it be prized possessions lining grandma's mantel or a design-conscious decor element or showpiece in the living room, the power of the knick-knack is enormous, says Dana Jordan, owner of her namesake gift and decor shop in Toronto.

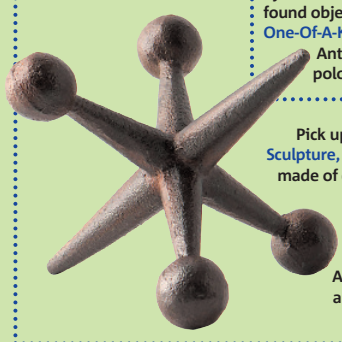
"They are the icing on the cake," says Jordan. "A room is a room is a room. However, decorative objects make the bland room come to life. They add instant character and personalize an area."

With designer tsotchkes — perhaps an oxymoron, as the word "tsotchke" can imply cheaply made or kitschy items, like the trinkets sold outside of tourist attractions — it's not just about the esthetics of these little objects d'art but also the emotion they elicit.

One's knick-knacks can say a lot about a person, Jordan says: "Their likes … what makes them smile, what makes them tick.

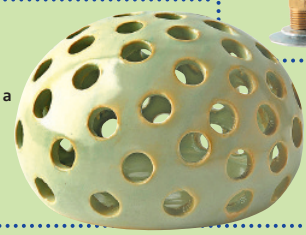
"Decorative objects run the gamut from pure objets d'art that simply please the eye to objects that marry beauty — which is always in the eye of the beholder — with function," she says.

Jordan notes many high-end brands are designing stunning practical gadgets, with the Alessi brand a prime example. Created by architects and industrial designers, Alessi's everyday objects are indeed outstanding enough to be housed in the Museum of Modern Art, she says.



Pick up the Cast Iron Jack Sculpture, a palm-sized piece made of cast iron and recall your days as the neighborhood 'round-the-world champ. Anthropologie, $10, anthropologie.com.

Artist Amy Flynn searched the world far and wide, gathering bits and pieces — a candy tin, tea infusers, hydraulic fittings — to create this found object automaton called the One-Of-A-Kind Fobot, Gwendolyn. Anthropologie, $518, anthropologie.com.



Washed ashore by early morning waves, this Porous Coral Sculpture, a handcrafted fragment of the reef, wears a salty seafoam glaze. Stoneware Handmade in U.S. Anthropologie, $78, anthropologie.com.

See what happens when 19th-century glass and delicate sea life come together. Each handmade piece in the Beach Find Bottle collection is entirely one-of-a-kind. Anthropologie, $328, anthropologie.com.

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More online
Check out the all of Metro decor expert Karl Lohnes' columns at Metronews.ca.

From home to condo decor tips

DecorMoment

With the real estate market booming and people trading in their large homes and downsizing to condos, I thought the spring would be a good time to pass on a few design rules regarding downsizing. It can be hard giving up everything in a big house and moving to a smaller space, but you don't have to give up your style or comforts just because you are giving up a large place for a small one.

CASALIFE.COM PHOTO

A few old and few new furniture pieces help to create a stylish new condo.

"Moving from a large home to a smaller sized space means you can't take everything with you. Consider re-purposing many of your favorite furniture pieces: The china cabinet can now be used as a bookcase in the living or den; a wing-back chair from the family room can be slipcovered and used in the corner of the bedroom; and of course artwork, rugs and mirrors can be re-used in different areas of your new home."

You can't take it all!

Moving from a large home to a smaller sized space means you can't take everything with you. Consider re-purposing many of your favorite furniture pieces: The china cabinet can now be used as a bookcase in the living or den; a wing-back chair from the family room can be slipcovered and used in the corner of the bedroom; and of course artwork, rugs and mirrors can be re-used in different areas of your new home.

Size matters!

Here is a list of a few key pieces that will make a small space live larger: Expandable dining table; on a daily basis they sit four and when extended family or friends visit they can seat six to 10. Condo-sized sofa; usually around six feet long, its slightly smaller than a regular sofa, but longer than a love seat so that three people can sit comfortable. Remember that a skirted sofa will visually look heavier than one with an exposed leg and that foam cushions offer more support than feather cushions. Parson-style dining chairs; these upholstered chairs are practical for dining and then are easily moved into the living room as a comfy chair. I suggest purchasing them in sets of at least eight; slipcover a few of them and use them in spare bedrooms or home offices. A good place to start is casalife.com; they specialize in small space furniture.

What not to bring:

There are certain things that usually just won't work in a new, smaller space; here's my list: Oversized glass-topped coffee tables, large armoires, the unused piano, uptdated lighting, trendy coloured area rugs (think dusty rose or lavender) and old draperies are always a no-no to bring when downsizing. The best place to sell off your treasures are at garage and yards sales, or online. Check out Kijiji.ca when selling furnishing and home goods. It's a free, community-based website that helps to link sellers to buyer.

How to decorate:

Choose a neutral colour that you like in your existing furnishings and use it when purchasing new, updated pieces. Don't be afraid to mix styles; a queen anne style china cabinet and dining table can look fantastic with new modern chairs and a traditional four poster bed can look great with modern side tables and lamps. Only bring scale and size appropriate furnishings. Consider clean-lined window treatments rather than traditional draperies in your new space. Moving to a smaller space is the perfect time to update your audio and visual equipment; replace the large boxy with a streamlined plasma and replace the mammoth floor speakers with wall and ceiling mount ones.

Karl Lohnes is passionate about good decor and wants to help you have a beautiful home; no matter what your budget or style.

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Royal Bank and TD boost mortgage rates

MONEY Royal Bank of Canada kicked off another round of mortgage rate hikes this week, just days after the Bank of Canada's stern warning that higher interest rates are on the way.

RBC said it will increase interest rates by 15 basis points, or 0.15 of a percentage point, on mortgages with terms from six months to 10 years.

Hours later, TD Canada Trust announced increases ranging from 15 to 25 basis points on its six-month to 10-year mortgages.

It's the third time in one month that major Canadian banks have boosted rates for home owners.

Benjamin Tal, senior economist at CIBC World Markets, said the move does not come as a surprise.

"The market is getting more aggressive about the prospect of the Bank of Canada raising interest rates.

Now it seems the market is expecting even more aggressive interest rates increases than it was last week," he said.

"The bond market is really a mirror to the future and this mirror is now telling us that the Bank of Canada is going to move. That's why bond rates go up."

The Bank of Canada left the key overnight rate untouched at 0.25 per cent at its rate-setting meeting last week.

But in its latest monetary report, the central bank declared that the nation's economy is growing more quickly than expected.

It also withdrew a commitment made last year, as the global economy fell into recession, to hold rates steady until the second half of 2010.

Central bank governor Mark Carney also said that the time for historic low interest rates has passed.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

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The taps are the biggest turn on

With choices like these, is it time to renovate you bathroom?

The bathroom is, next to the kitchen, the most-used room in the home. And the more it's used, the more familiar it gets. So familiar, that eventually you wish you had mega dollars to do it over right.

NEWS CANADA PHOTOS

Check out these new bathroom tap designs from American Standard Studio and Boulevard Collection.

You can make a substantial difference for a lot less than that. And do it without a plumber entering your home. One suggestion delivers top-of-the-line style, unbeatable performance, with installation a freebie — providing you, or someone in your family, knows how to put Tab A into Slot B.

This strategy is based on a personal observation, that perhaps the most important items in a bathroom are the taps. That's where the water comes from, that's where you put your hands to get what you need; they are your interface with the joyful world of water.

So, here's a simple suggestion: Whatever faucets you may have right now, on your washbasin, your tub, or your shower, your bathroom will be much more enjoyable if you replace them with smart, stylish, super-efficient beautifully designed faucets from the American Standard Studio Collection.

You'll love the look: they are sleek with an edginess, and easy to use. Studio is more than just basin faucets: You can splurge on tub fillers and shower systems and all kinds of fittings that coordinate completely.

An alternative to American Standard Studio is their new Boulevard Collection. The idea is the same — one style offering, a full range of co-ordinating fittings. But the style is rectangular, rather than square, and the water is delivered in a wonderful way. Most faucets force the water through an aerator, which means that it arrives in an untidy mess, all pumped up with air. In Boulevard, there is no aerator, and the water is delivered in an endless flat ribbon. Water now has style … No bubbles, no splashing, just solid, lovely, water. It has to be seen, and felt, to be believed.

Now for the clincher. These American Standard faucets come with a unique feature, SpeedConnect technology. Compared with old-fashioned faucets they need one-third the number of parts, and can be installed for life by a designated member of your family, in one-third the time using only one third the tools.

If new faucets don't satisfy you craving for change, you can try a modern new sink that is a perfect match for Studio or Boulevard. It's called Carré, the newest addition to the popular Studio Collection it's rectangular with a gentle swoop down to the drain.

Learn more about Studio, Boulevard, SpeedConnect and the location of a nearby supplier at americanstandard.ca.

NEWS CANADA

How to bask, not burn, in the backyard sun

HomeScape

Backyard lounging, barbecuing and socializing sounds like fun, right? But not when you're broiling under the sizzling summertime sun.

There are lots of reasons to provide shelter from direct sunlight in your yard, including comfort and protection from the sun while you and your family are outdoors. There are also indirect benefits, such as temperature control in your house and associated savings in energy costs.

There are numerous ways to increase the shade in your yard, planting trees on the western or southern exposures is a good place to start.

- Choose deciduous and/or coniferous trees, depending on your needs. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the wintertime, allowing sunlight and warmth to penetrate. Coniferous trees do not lose their needles, providing privacy and shelter from winds on a year-round basis.
- Consider planting larger trees, so you can enjoy the benefits sooner.
- If you're handy, erect a pergola or a wooden arbour, consisting of a couple of support beams and crossbeams running from your home to the support pieces. A pergola is an open structure that provides partial shade, and it allows you the flexibility of draping material, or training vines or vegetation to grow over it.
- Awnings can be used over windows to reduce heat and light entering your home.
- If you have a large yard, you may want to build a gazebo (open, roofed structure) away from the house.
- Awnings can be used over windows to reduce heat and light entering your home. A larger awning (retractable waterproof fabric or aluminum) can also be used as a covering for a patio. For an estimate or information on using fabric or aluminum to provide shelter, see harmonyas.com or shadefx-canopies.com.
- If you want an outdoor room, build a roof on several support beams. These outdoor "rooms" can outfitted with retractable screens to keep bugs at bay.
- If you have a porch with sunny exposure, you may want to install weatherproof curtains that can be drawn to keep out sun, wind or rain.
- Whatever you do, make sure the finish matches the style of your home. If your house is traditional-looking, for example, try to maintain that mood.
- Be thrifty, yes, but also be design-conscious. Those corrugated fibreglass panels, for instance, may be inexpensive, but the look will definitely be "tacked on" (not to mention "tacky".)

If money is an object...

- To keep the out of the sun, your least expensive option is an umbrella, which will keep your dining area shady, for family dining al fresco. A canopy or a series of canopies will increase the shaded area, for entertaining or for purposes.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

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Create more space with a home reno

For homeowners, expanding living space often means relocating to a bigger house since building an addition isn't always an option.

But if you can't build up or build out, a great alternative to moving is creating additional space inside your house. A good way to do it is a home renovation project that will convert unused space into a living space, such as areas like your basement. Renovating your basement, such as upgrading your basement insulation, can be done quickly and easily with these handy tips for the homeowner.

- Measure the entire area you plan to renovate.
- Determine whether to do-it-yourself or contract it out.
- Choose materials that you will need to finish the job.

According to David Flood, insulation expert at Owens Corning, it is important to ensure that your basement is properly insulated, not only to expand your living space, but also to help save on heating and cooling costs and enhance the overall comfort of your basement.

Adequate insulation will help improve energy efficiency and provide exceptional moisture resistance in your basement. For optimal results, install Cel-Lok insulation panels with an R-10 value and R-14 PINK FIBERGLAS® insulation batts to create a thermal insulation barrier with a value of R-24. These fast and easy upgrades will make your home more comfortable and also more energy efficient.

NEWS CANADA

If building on to your house is not in your plans, consider renovating what you have by renovating your basement; it can make living in the rest of your house more comfortable.

"It is important to ensure that your basement is properly insulated, not only to expand your living space, but also to help save on heating and cooling costs and enhance the overall comfort of your basement."

Ready to get started? Don't forget to take advantage of government grants available to help out with your home renovation projects. The ecoENERGY Retrofit — Homes program is offering a grant of up to $5000 from the Government of Canada for energy efficiency renovations that have not yet started. Some energy utilities and provincial governments offer additional funding. For more information on ecoEnergy grants and incentives, visit ecoaction.gc.ca/homes.

Want to learn more? Instructions on how to insulate your basement can be found at owenscorning.ca. And remember: The long-term benefit of renovating your basement is the added value to your home when it does come time to sell.

NEWS CANADA

NEWS CANADA

Is it time to renovate your kitchen?

A kitchen renovation is delightful in spring

RENO Spring — the time of renewal — is a time to freshen up your home. Many Canadian homeowners may be inspired to tackle a renovation project, such as a kitchen upgrade. The focal point of your home, the kitchen is where we have family dinners or drinks with friends, or catch up with our loved ones over a morning coffee. There are simple ways to make your kitchen more comfortable and inviting for all.

"A kitchen is important to homeowners because it is central to all types of social interaction," says Cheryl West, insulation expert at Owens Corning. "Homeowners want this reflected in the comfort and overall ambiance of this often neglected living space."

When renovating your kitchen, keep in mind these tips. Stick to basics. Keep minimal appliances. Clear clutter, and think twice before you add another decorative detail. Make sure there is quality living space in your kitchen that you can enjoy with your family and friends. And while you're at it, don't forget about upgrading insulation. There is nothing more inviting than a warm, quiet and comfortable kitchen, and that's what you can achieve by upgrading your insulation.

Owens Corning QuietZone acoustic batts will help minimize noise and prevent sounds from the dishwasher drifting up to the bedrooms. But that's not all. With PINK™ FIBERGLAS® insulation products, made from over mostly recycled content, you will help turn waste into useable products and protect the environment.

And it only gets better. Government grants and incentives available to homeowners for energy-efficient renovations can help you save even more. Federal and provincial governments as well as some energy utilities offer funding for energy-efficient renovations.

With all these reasons to update your kitchen, stop waiting and start renovating. More information on grants and incentives can be found online at showmethegreen.ca.

More information about how to insulate is available at owenscorning.ca.

NEWS CANADA

Toilets the height of luxury?

Is there any bathroom fixture that has changed more over recent years than the toilet?

First there was the high-efficiency toilet, followed by the higher-efficiency dual-flush toilet — and from American Standard such ground breakers as the "plunger free" Champion and the even higher efficiency H2Option. Now they are raising the bar again with the American Standard and Porcher Luxury Performance Toilet Collection — LXP to the initiated.

Some background here. The two companies (they are both part of American Standard Brands) have long specialized in the "total bathroom" concept of bathroom fixture design. If for example, you like the looks of the American Standard Tropic Collection (and who doesn't?) you'll have a choice of co-ordinating counter tops, washbasins, pedestal sinks, faucets and showers, storage units, mirrors, towel rails and three toilets.

Correction — four toilets — there is now also an LXP Toilet in the Tropic style. The key word is luxury. Gary Uhl, design director for American Standard Brands, said the "style" element here. He surprised me.

"Our design inspiration came from furniture, which is interesting", he said. "During the Renaissance chamber pots were often disguised as furniture."

So, these luxury one-piece toilets have personality and presence, but how about performance? "The less water a toilet uses, the harder the water has to work," explains Graeme Lennox, marketing manager for American Standard in Canada. "Our engineers have developed multiple ways to boost efficiency, and they all come together to put the Performance into LXP."

Graeme also counted off a number of ways that the LXP toilets make life easier and more comfortable — an anti-bacterial surface treatment, EverClean, over the entire fixture, a choice of elongated bowls and extra height for greater comfort, and a slow-close seat that keeps things quiet, much appreciated in the wee small hours of the morning.

American Standard offers one-piece Luxury Performance Toilets in their Antiquity, Boulevard, Savona, Town Square and Tropic Collections, while from Porcher come LXP toilets in their Archive, Chapeau, Ovale (two versions) and Veneto Collections. Most models are available in both 6 and 4.8 lpf, and therefore qualify for rebates. You can find price, availability, and a nearby supplier online at americanstandard.ca.

NEWS CANADA

NEWS CANADA PHOTOS

American Standard has come out with a new wave of luxury toilets, be sure to check them out.

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Line stops in Ottawa
David Grey will be in concert at the NAC on May 23 at 8 p.m. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Scene&Heard

EDITOR: SARAH.CAIRNS@METRONEWS.CA

Music in the city

TIM WIECLASWSKI
tim.wieclawski@metronews.ca

Summer in Ottawa is festival season, which brings no shortage of outdoor concerts for every taste.

The big one, as always, is Ottawa Bluesfest, which attracts hundreds of thousands of people to LeBreton Flats Park in early July.

Iron Maiden is the opening night act on July 6. Joan Jett will be playing on Friday. Metric and the Flaming Lips are among the acts taking the stage on busy Saturday. Legendary Canadian Rock group, Rush, wraps up the first weekend on Sunday.

Things only get better for the second week with Arcade Fire, Santana, Crowded House, Drake, Keith Urban and Weezer rounding things out.

But it's not all about rock and roll and rhythm and blues. Less than 48 hours before Bluesfest kicks off, John Geggie, Nick Fraser and Nancy Walker will be playing the final notes for the TD Canada Trust Ottawa International Jazz Festival at 101 Lounge.

Jazzfest starts June 24 and ends July 4. Most of the big concerts take place in Confederation Park, but shows also take place in the National Arts Centre.

Supafunk rocker Trombone Shorty will be the main act opening night. Herbie Hancock will take the stage June 25. The Saturday night show will feature smooth jazz progenitors the David Sanborn Trio featuring Joey DeFrancesco.

The Jazzfest concerts Canada Day will be part of dozens of shows available for revellers on the nation's birthday.

On July 1, Montreal experimental duo BEAST will be playing an evening show in Jacques Cartier Park in Gatineau. There will also be concerts at Major's Hill Park. The big show will be a concert from K'naan and Sarah McLachlan on Parliament Hill before the fireworks. Not all concerts are taking place outside this summer.

With the Senators done for the season, Scotiabank Place is just as busy with big acts like Taylor Swift (May 20) and Sting (July 25) taking the place of Daniel Alfredsson and Mike Fisher.

Metric will be performing at Ottawa Bluesfest in July.

Left: K'naan
Right: Sting

Bon Appetit is going green

TRACEY TONG
tracey.tong@metronews.ca

In addition to supporting charities, the capital's premiere gourmet event — with a conscience — is also going green this year.

When it's held at Lansdowne Park on May 4, Bon Appetit Ottawa will use biodegradable plates, reusable wine glasses and recycling and compost receptacles on site. The City of Ottawa and Goulbourne Sanitation will conduct waste and energy audits.

For thousands of people in the Ottawa area, this event is the food equivalent of Christmas morning — the 19+ show, which is held at the Aberdeen Pavilion, features over 90 restaurants and caterers and dozens of wineries and breweries. The show allows attendees to sample the creations of the region's top chefs and renowned wineries and help a good cause at the same time.

Bon Appetit is May 4

Bon Appetit Ottawa has 21 beneficiaries in 2010, including the Boys & Girls Club, Bruce House, the Carlington Community Health Centre, Harmony House, Harvest House, Maison d'Amitie and Operation Come Home.

More than 2,000 people are expected to attend this year's show.

"Bon Appetit Ottawa is so popular because it's the perfect way to sample many different culinary experiences — with over 90 restaurants, caterers, wineries, breweries and more offering samples, you're sure to find something you like," said Jantine Van Kregten, a board member with Bon Appetit. "Many people use the event as research for their next big night out. You can meet the chefs and sample so many different things that it truly is a one-stop shop."

Exhibitors include a Culinary Conspiracy, Algonquin College's Restaurant International, ARC the Hotel, Ballygiblin's Restaurant and Pub, Beau's All Natural Brewing Co., Big Easy's Seafood and Steak House, Big Rock Brewery, Black Dog Bistro, Colio Estate Wines, Countryman's Estate Wines, Courtyard Restaurant, Epicuria Fine Food Store & Catering, Fresco Bistro Italiano, Heritage Brewing Limited, Hockley Valley Brewing Company, HogsBack Brewing Co., Mill Street Brewery, Petit Bill's Bistro, Prime 360, Social, Steam Whistle Brewing, Steak Modern Steakhouse and the Wakefield Mill.

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Mother's Day is full of laughs
Yuk-Yuks' downtown location is putting on an all female comedy show for the Mother's Day weekend. Homegrown comedian Jen Grant will headline the show. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Scene&Heard

It's all fun and games

MIRANDA MINASSIAN
for Metro Ottawa

More and more people are tuning in to one of Ottawa's cheap and easy entertainment options — comedy.

"We're sold out 95 per cent of the time here," said Absolute Comedy manager Jeff Tanguay.

"Even on Wednesdays and Thursdays, we are turning people away."

Preston Street's Absolute Comedy is currently gearing up for their summer season with an all-star line up of comedians. Among those scheduled to perform are Just For Laughs veterans Steve Levine and Andrew Grose.

While recognizable faces bring fans in, veteran performers aren't the only ones drawing people to shows, said Tanguay. An increase in interest from local amateur comedians has contributed to the comedy's popularity in the city.

Student and amateur performer Chris Hunt, isn't surprised by the draw the city has to new artists.

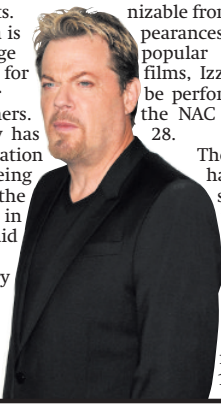
"Ottawa is a huge hotspot for amateur performers. The city has a reputation for being one of the funniest cities in Canada," said Hunt.

Held every Wednesday, Yuk Yuks provides a weekly venue for amateur artists to practice their bits.

Beyond amateur shows, Yuk Yuks offers a variety of weekly comedic programming.

The National Arts Centre will also being going for laughs this spring when is hosts actor and comedian Eddie Izzard. Recognizable from his appearances in the popular Ocean's films, Izzard will be performing at the NAC on May 28.

The NAC has also scheduled Scottish-Indian comedian, Danny Bhoy, for May 1-2.



Left: Danny Bhoy
Right: Eddie Izzard

Catch it before it's gone

TIM WIECLAWSKI
tim.wieclawski@metronews.ca

Many theatre companies are coming to the end of their season before a brief summer hiatus.

And they may have saved the best for last.

On June 8, The Great Canadian Theatre Company presents its final play of the 2009-2010 season, Heroes.

The comedy is about three war veterans, Philippe, Gustave and Henri, living home in France in 1959.

Each is suffering their own affliction. Henri has a gammy leg. Gustave is agoraphobic and Philippe frequently passes out due to a piece of shrapnel in his brain. In an attempt to recapture their glory days, the trio plan a great escape to the poplars over the hill and beyond.

In a special presentation from the National Arts Centre English Theatre, A Place to Call Home will play two nights on May 7 and 8.

The production is a solo performance from Northern storyteller and musician Pat Braden as he reflects on the coming of age in the mining town of Yellowknife, NWT.

The Ottawa Little Theatre will wrap up its season on June 1-19 with the classic Noel Coward comedy Present Laughter.

That play follows a few days in the life of self-obsessed actor Garry Essendine, as he prepares for a theatrical tour of Africa. Along the way he has to fend of aggressive female fans, placate his secretary and estranged wife, deal with an excited young playwright, all the while coming to grips with his approaching fortieth birthday.

The Gladstone Theatre has two summers plays left in its current season.

Italian American Reconciliation runs from June 10-26.

The play centres on Huey Maximilian Bonfigliano's attempt to regain his manhood after divorcing his shrewish wife.

Then from July 22 to August 14, the Andrews Brothers will take over at the Gladstone Theatre.

The wartime play is about a trio of soldiers, Max, Lawrence and Patrick Andrews sent to help out with rehearsals for a USO show.

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Take a walk on the dark side

Haunted Walks Inc. offers researched tours of local ghost stories and the city's darker history. The company also offers a Crime and Punishment jail tour, which includes a visit to death row and the gallows inside the Old Carleton County Jail; Ghost and the Gallows; and the Naughty Ottawa Pub Walk, which touches on political scandals and affairs in the capital. METRO NEWS SERVICES

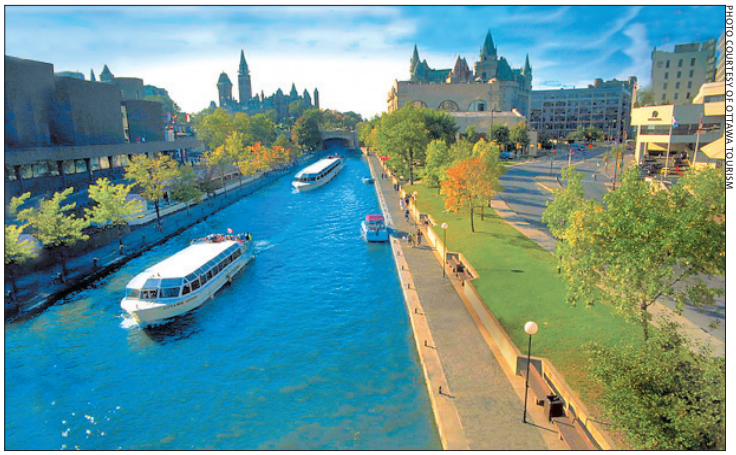

PHOTO COURTESY OF OTTAWA TOURISM

A boat cruise along the Rideau is a lovely way to spend a summer day.

Get a new perspective

TRACEY TONG
tracey.tong@metronews.ca

Tourism season in the nation's capital means that there are lots of different options for tours.

Grey Line (grayline.ca) offers a two-hour Hop On Hop Off Discover the Capital Tour, where tourists can see the town aboard London-style double-deckers or turn-of-the-century trolleys. The tour —which allows people to hop on and off — is led by award-winning guides.

For those who prefer to see the capital on their own steam, Ottawa Walking Tours (ottawawalkingtours.com) offers several tours, including the popular two-hour Historical Highlights Walking Tour, which stops at Parliament Hill, the National War Memorial, the Supreme Court, Sparks Street and Major's Hill Park to name a few.

Art lovers will want to check out Ottawa Walking Tours new walk, The Art Walk, which starts in June. The Art Walk will focus on the important statues and works of art found within Ottawa's downtown core.

Those who want to do their site seeing on the water can check out Paul's Boat Lines (paulsboatcruises.com) which takes people on both the Rideau Canal the Ottawa River. The bilingual tours includes the Museum of Civilization, Rideau Falls, the Prime Minister's residence, the Experimental Farm and more.

It's festival season in the capital

TRACEY TONG
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Ottawa is widely known as the city of festivals.

For residents looking for something to do on weekends without having to leave the city, the lineup doesn't disappoint.

Held at Major's Hill Park, Commissioners Park at Dow's Lake and along the Rideau Canal, nothing says spring in Ottawa like the Canadian Tulip Festival, which kicks off May 7 and runs through May 24. The festival, the largest in the world, celebrates the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Holland and the Canadian Naval Centennial Anniversary.

Kids will love the Ottawa International Children's Festival, and even parents might find something to enjoy. The festival is held May 26 to 30 at Lebreton Flats Park, the Canadian War Museum and Library and Archives Canada.

The capital turns Ottawa's large running community into a mecca for athletes of all abilities with Ottawa Race Weekend, held over two days on May 29 and 30. Tens of thousands of people are expected to participate.

Whether or not you're Italian, Preston Street is the place to be during Italian Week, from June 10-20.

The weekend of June 11 to 13 has many offerings, with the Carnival of Cultures and Westfest.

Of course, Canada's bilingual capital wouldn't be complete without the Festival Franco-Ontarien, held from June 17 to 20.

Plan to attend

- Other festivals happening in coming months include the Ottawa Fringe Festival (June 17-27), the Tim Hortons Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival (June 18-20), the Summer Solstice Aboriginal Arts Festival (June 19-21) and the TD Canada Trust Ottawa International Jazz Festival (June 24-July 4).

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Loyalty & Rewards

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Why joining a rewards program makes sense – and dollars

You may have noticed that there are more and more loyalty programs popping up—in supermarkets, at banks and retail stores, and even at your local cinema. You don't want a wallet full of plastic—so how do you choose which programs are best for you?

The first thing to look for is the way in which you can earn points. Is the product or service something you're going to invest in on a regular basis? If you go to the movies a lot, an entertainment rewards card might be worth looking into. Or if you're a department store denizen, see what programs they have to offer. And don't forget to check your financial institution to see if they offer rewards-based credit cards.

Next, take a look at bonus offerings, such as partner merchants or companies that offer special discounts if you're a cardholder. The more places you can use the card, the better. Rewards programs are expanding their partnerships all the time so, if one doesn't appeal to you at first, check back in a while to see if they've added new partner perks.

Finally, it's important to know how you can redeem the rewards you've earned. Many loyalty programs have tailored their rewards to they way in which you earned points: Store cards might offer credit towards future purchases at their location, entertainment cards may allow you to redeem points for movies and music, or credit card rewards could even let you pay down your line of credit. Some even offer rewards you may not expect!

Whatever programs you choose, don't be afraid to use them. Keep your cards handy and use them whenever you can—even online if possible. After all, the rewards are there for the taking—so get earning!

By Lori Dance

Joining the Club

Sears Club Rewards are as straightforward as it gets

When we looked into Sears Club, we thought we were seeing things—or rather, not seeing things.

One point for every dollar spent at participating stores? That just sounds too simple. Wait—two points for every dollar spent at Sears? That still makes sense. So we asked someone at Sears what the deal was.

"The Sears Club Points Program is one of the richest no-fee travel credit card rewards programs in Canada," says Peter Kalen, Vice President, Sears Financial and Sears Travel. "Our customers earn 2% back from the very first dollar they spend at Sears."

Is there anything else we need to know? "Our program is also very flexible," says Kalen. "Customers can redeem their points towards virtually anything at Sears or Sears Travel, whether it's Sears merchandise, a flight, hotel room or even a car rental. Plus customers can redeem as soon as they have $10 in points and for any multiple of $10. They can apply their savings towards the purchase of their choice, no matter the size!"

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SCENE GETS TO THE POINT

A closer look at a fast-growing entertainment rewards program

We've all heard about programs that reward consumers for retail and financial transactions, but there appears to be a new kid on the block: Entertainment rewards.

We sat down with Shawn Bloom, General Manager of SCENE, to get an insight into what makes the SCENE program so attractive.

"SCENE is committed to delivering unique entertainment reward opportunities to its members," Shawn explains. "Unlike other loyalty and rewards programs where people have to save up for months, even years, to get great rewards, nearly 2.5 million SCENE members earn amazing rewards – fast, starting at just 1,000 points."

But how did they come up with the idea of rewarding customers for seeing movies? "After Cineplex acquired Famous Players from Viacom," Shawn continues, "Cineplex and Scotiabank began having conversations about a number of joint marketing opportunities. Eventually, Scotiabank suggested that there may be something bigger here that could work for both organizations."

The free-to-join SCENE program covers three card offerings: SCENE card (regular), SCENE ScotiaCard (debit), and SCENE Visa card (credit). SCENE debit and credit cards allow consumers to earn rewards not only on Cineplex movie tickets, but also on everyday purchases. Launched in 2007, the program has amassed nearly a whopping 2.5million members since its inception.

So what's on the horizon for SCENE members? "SCENE is constantly expanding to offer more places to earn points and bigger and better rewards for entertainment lovers," Shawn explains. "Although free movies and concession discounts are the foundation of the program, we know our members also love dining out, music, concerts and other entertainment activities—so we're focused on delivering more of the entertainment benefits they love."

Did you know?

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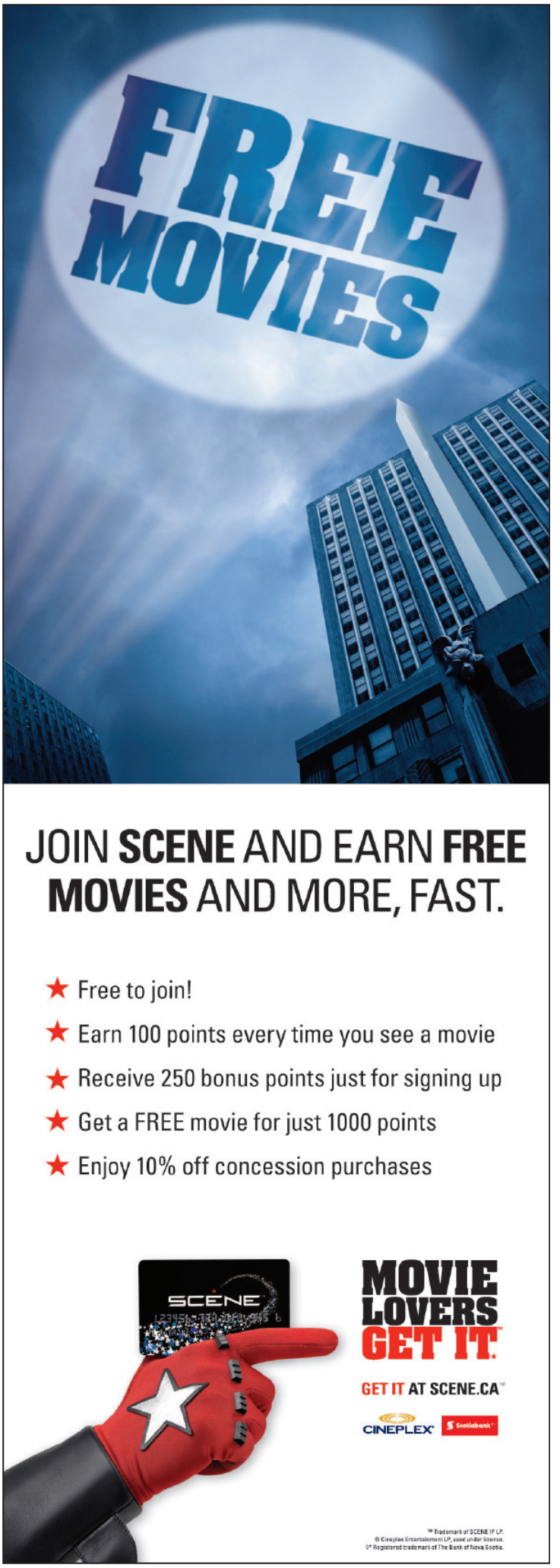


Fashionable and walk-able

Are you a practical fashionista? If so, then the newly launched online boutique Scarpasa (scarpasa.com) is for you. It offers stylish flats, sandals, boots and low and mid-heeled shoes from independent designers around the world. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Style

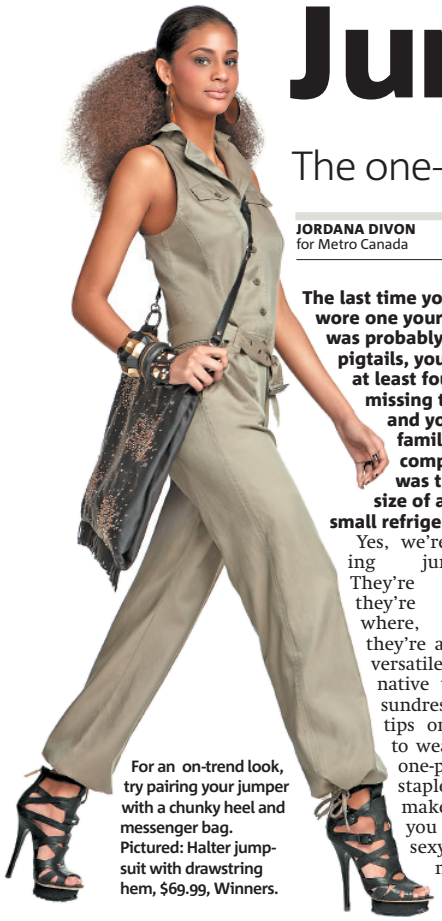
Jewelry by Trump

Even the rich and famous enjoy a bargain. Forty-year-old model Melania Trump (wife of Donald) is launching line of affordable jewelry on QVC. Each item in the Melania Timepieces & Jewelry collection costs less than $200. The line is broken up into three categories inspired by places Trump calls home: New York, Palm Beach and Paris. The New York items are created with a businesswoman in mind; Palm Beach is more sporty, and Paris is more flashy and glamorous. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Jumper to it

The one-piece is back and versatile as ever



For an on-trend look, try pairing your jumper with a chunky heel and messenger bag. Pictured: Halter jumpsuit with drawstring hem, $69.99, Winners.

JORDANA DIVON
for Metro Canada

The last time you wore one your hair was probably in pigtails, you had at least four missing teeth, and your family computer was the size of a small refrigerator.

Yes, we're talking jumpers. They're here, they're everywhere, and they're a more versatile alternative to the sundress. For tips on how to wear this one-piece staple and make sure you look sexy — not six — we turned to a pair of fashion experts.

CityLine style expert Lynn Spence happens to believe the jumper revival is a good thing. "Think of the things you can do with it," she says. "It's sort of a modified dress, but it doesn't feel like a dress so you don't feel so formal."

Spence suggests sticking to jumpers in darker, more neutral colours, like charcoal or black, and avoiding anything too feminine or ladylike. "First of all, wearing them with a delicate heel is a mistake," she says. "I would see them with a knee-length boot, or a chunky heel instead. (Also) you can't do a perfect little bag; instead try a messenger bag that goes from shoulder to hip, or something fun like a faux python skin bag."

Because jumpers are such a strong piece, accessories can often make — or break — your entire look. That's why Spence recommends going bigger and better when it comes to your jewelry. "You can do great strong silver and gold chain link accessories, big crosses, that kind of thing," she says. "And you can make it a bit pretty by pairing a chiffon blouse with a fabulous leather jacket."

As for choosing the right jumper for your body type, one size most certainly does not fit all. Spence advises sticking to an a-line cut if you're heavier on the bottom, and staying away from jumpers that skim the body unless you're narrow hipped.

Janine Furtado, marketing and press co-ordinator at French Connection, says her favourite thing about jumpers is the ability to go from day to night with a few simple change ups. "It's an essential piece because you can do so much with it, especially when you have a classic black jumper," she says. "Take it from the beach with a great pink straw hat and simple flats, then swap it with a necklace and some heels and you can easily go from day to night."

Whatever your personal style preference, you should be able to slip into a slinky jumper and still look like you graduated from junior high. That's why Spence is happy to see so many young celebrities like actress Elisha Cuthbert and singer Rihanna decked out in an array of one-piece wonders. "I think the moment you see them photographed on a woman, or you see them on TV and you see how amazing they look, streamlining them will make any woman feel more comfortable with them."

Jumper rules

Lynn Spence's jumper cheat sheet:

- Avoid anything too delicate or feminine
- Try big, chunky jewelry
- Stick with dark, neutral colours
- For a chic, breezy summer look, pair a jumper with a simple white T-shirt
- To dress it up, try a chiffon blouse, or a three-quarter length sleeve under a leather jacket

Printed jumper, $158, left, and beaded jumper, $148, below. Both available at French Connection.

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5 worst men's fashion faux pas

HEATHER BUCHAN
for Metro Canada

Many men get a bad rap when it comes to dressing.

But, you don't need to be a fashion expert to look like one. Russell Smith, author of Men's Style: The Thinking Man's Guide to Dress, and the new novel Girl Crazy, shares the five worst fashion crimes committed by men.

1. Advertising Logos

"Generally, wearing any clothing that advertises the maker of that brand of clothing is something that one should be paid to do," says Smith, who includes sports team logos in this category as well. "Wearing athletic clothing outside of sporting events just makes you look immature."

2. Inappropriate Footwear

"The number one error men make is choosing the wrong shoes for their outfit," explains Smith. Shoes should always be good quality, clean and interesting. On Smith's banned list: Doc Martens, hiking boots worn outside of a hiking trail and Tivas. "The worst mistake I see is guys wearing cheap shoes with suits," adds Smith.

3. Wearing Hats in Restaurants

"You should never wear a hat of any kind in a restaurant," says Smith. "I don't care how cool you think your toque is, or how cool you think your ball cap is, or if you're bald." It's just bad manners and other people will judge you as juvenile.

4. Cheap Winter Coats

Every man needs a proper wool winter coat, says Smith. "It looks very wrong to see a man in a suit wearing a parka, particularly a parka that's shorter than the suit jacket," he adds. Bright, puffy, gortex coats are not appropriate with suits.

5. Knapsacks

Wearing your university knapsack with a suit to the office is a tell-tale sign of immaturity, says Smith. "You want to invest in a good over-the-shoulder briefcase-style bag," he explains.

If you're thinking of rocking a sophisticated summer look like Brad Pitt in his cream-coloured suit and matching fedora, don't forget to remove your hat when entering a restaurant, warns fashion expert and author Russell Smith.

RUFFLED SKIRT

Frill-seekers swing it out

ADVICE A flouncy skirt is one of the easiest ways to punch up a wardrobe. For a romantic look, pick one in delicate lace or airy chiffon in off-white or beige. Fashion-forward types may want to try bright colours or bold florals.

CURVY

Cotton, Vero Moda ($39, veromoda.com)

Polyester, Kensie ($68, kensie.com)

TALL

PETITE

Cotton, Yumi ($85, 514-388-3569)

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Conan dishes to 60 Minutes

Conan O'Brien will give his first post-Tonight Show interview on Sunday to 60 Minutes. As part of his $45 million exit deal with NBC, O'Brien was banned from giving any broadcast or print interviews until May 1. TVGUIDE.COM

Entertainment

Damon child

Matt Damon and his wife Luciana are set to welcome a fourth child to the family. Luciana, 34, is due in the fall. "Everybody's really happy," a rep for Damon, 39, says.

PEOPLE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Hole haunted by old Love

Hole

Album: Nobody's Daughter
Label: Universal
Rating: ●●●

IT'S HARD TO remember, but Courtney Love used to be a pretty good singer. She's more known for her unseemly antics these days, but in the mid-'90s she was one of grunge's more formidable songwriters. On her first record in 12 years, Kurt Cobain's widow amazingly taps into the Love of old. It's not as Nirvana-like anymore, but her throaty yell and druggy rock is mostly still in tact. It's hard not to pity Love — when she sings "I'm overwhelmed and undersexed … I'm too upset to show my face" you know the words really are coming from a haunted place in her soul.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Hannah Georgas

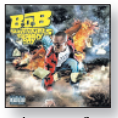
Album: This Is Good
Label: Hidden Pony
Rating: ●●●●½

BANG BANG YOUR Dead is one of those perfect little songs that'll be hitting your radio real soon — if it hasn't already. It's about nasty school girl gossip and betrayal. With a hip dance club beat and a saucy lyric that will appeal to all ages, it's hard to imagine not becoming a major hit. And Hannah Georgas' debut LP contains three or four more original tracks that could easily follow, each one showing that you don't have to dumb down the music to be popular. Comparisons have already been made to Serena Ryder, Emily Haines and Feist, which just goes to show this Vancouver singer-songwriter's amazing versatility. This is not just "good," it's an excellent debut.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

B.o.B.

Album: The Adventures of Bobby Ray
Label: Grand Hustle/Atlantic
Rating: ●●●½



ON HIS DEBUT album, North Carolina's Bobby Ray Simmons (a.k.a. B.o.B.) uses a mixtape format that diversifies track after track. His steez is fresh and fun, rapping about a girl who pays her taxes over R&B on Nothin' On You, bringing together both Paramore's Hayley Williams and Eminem for Airplanes, Part II and sampling Vampire Weekend with Janelle Monae on The Kids. B.o.B. does occasionally falter, trying to get high with label boss T.I. on Bet I and looking foolish as a balladeer on Lovelier Than You. But like Kanye and Kid Cudi before him, his boredom with simply being a hip-hop artist is an asset that should give us many more adventures as enjoyable as this one.

Cam Lindsay/for Metro Canada

As I Lay Dying

Album: The Powerless Rise
Label: Metal Blade
Rating: ●●●●

UNITING VIRULENT, PASSIONATE harmonies with forthright brutality, San Diego metalcore heroes As I Lay Dying (AILD) become even more dominant and ravenous on fifth full-length The Powerless Rise. A solid blast of hardcore-influenced metal, from its heart-stopping pace to ripping solos, growling vocals and imposing atmosphere, the album relentlessly hammers points home. However, the influx of inherent melody offsets The Powerless Rise's beastliness with an enticing sense of serenity, affirming that not only does this follow-up to Grammy-nominated 2007 effort An Ocean Between Us obliterate its predecessor's long shadow but confirms AILD as one of modern metal's most melodically vicious behemoths in the process.

Keith Carman/for Metro Canada

Nobody's Daughter is the first new album from Hole in 12 years.

Two Door Cinema Club

Album: Tourist History
Label: Glassnote/Universal
Rating: ●●●½

THE FIRST THING you'll want to do when hearing Ireland's Two Door Cinema Club is pick out all the bands they've grabbed material from. There's Franz Ferdinand on Come Back Home, Postal Service on Undercover Martyn, Jimmy Eat World on This is the Life and the list goes on. Fortunately, the pastiche of rock influences work. The band has put together a bright indie dance rock record that's infectious and diverse. The familiar sounds (especially the Alex Trimble's Ben Gibbard-like voice) may be grating at first, but try to give this a chance.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Album Reviews

music@metronews.ca

Bullet For My Valentine

Album: self-titled
Label: Sony Music
Rating: ●●

WHEN BULLET FOR My Valentine released The Poison in 2006, it seemed as if everyone was into screamo/metalcore, so they didn't have to work too hard to appease the masses. Today, average aggressive rock just won't cut it and Bullet doesn't deliver. The songs are loud and polished, combining emo choruses, throaty yells, and speedy blasts of guitar and drums — it's catchy for sure, but unlike Alexisonfire, whose songwriting has dramatically progressed, these guys are churning out mediocre tunes that should only appear in a bad teen drama.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

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Ring in the 3-D
A third instalment of The Ring is to be made. Paramount is planning on making a 3-D version of the horror movie, which is being titled Ring 3-D. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Sandra Bullock adopted a baby boy in January.

Bullock adopting, files for divorce

INTERVIEW Sandra Bullock has filed for divorce from her husband, Jesse James, and is adopting a baby boy as a single parent.

"Yes, I have filed for divorce," the 45-year-old Oscar-winning actress said in an interview with People magazine, posted Wednesday on its website. "I'm sad and I am scared."

Bullock and James, 41, began the adoption process four years ago, the People article said, and brought 3 1/2-month-old Louis Bardo Bullock home in January but decided to keep the news to themselves until after the Academy Awards.

In the interview, Bullock said she is savouring her new maternal status.

"You wake up, you feed, you burp, you play, you do laundry," she said. "I'm still in that stage where I'm just amazed with him and at life."

The baby, called Louie, is named after jazz great Louis Armstrong, who had particularly touched Bullock with his signature song, What a Wonderful World, she said. The child was born in New Orleans, a city where Bullock and James had both spent time after Katrina.

Bullock said she and James sought to pull no strings as they submitted to the typically time-consuming screening process, with no thoughts to the gender or background of the child they might receive.

Bullock said she got the call that a baby might be available for adoption during what she described as "the media craziness of the awards season."

"Just the doctors' visits were filled with decoys and dark cars," she said. "People that I had worked with for years couldn't understand why I wouldn't let them into my house for (Oscar ceremony gown) fittings."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Welcome to Haley's Nightmare

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Despite what his recent roles might suggest, Jackie Earle Haley is a very nice guy.

Since his career-reviving role as a child molester in Little Children, he's skulked the big screen as a misanthropic vigilante in Watchmen and mental patient in Shutter Island. Now he's taking over for Robert Englund as iconic horror villain Freddy Krueger in the new Nightmare on Elm Street reboot. But really, he's a nice guy.

Nightmare On Elm Street opens tomorrow

Jackie Earle Haley follows in the footsteps of Robert Englund in Nightmare on Elm Street.

"I think it's probably my physicality," Haley tells Metro as to why he keeps ending up in these sorts of roles.

"I also am drawn to characters that are kind of zingy. I don't have a lot interest to show up in stuff where the character's just kind of laying flat, just kind of there. I like stuff that's got kind of a real interesting arc."

While exploring Freddy Krueger's arc, Haley soon realized it wasn't like any other character he'd played.

"In my research, I started to go down this road of really looking at and getting serious about it," he says. That research included studying an encyclopedia of serial killers given to him by director Samuel Bayer.

"But then I realized, I'm playing a boogie man! I'm playing a mythical boogie man, a monster," Haley recalls. "I need to embrace that monster and embrace it inside this genre. It was incredibly freeing.

"The thing about him is he's not real. It's fiction," he says. "I embraced the fact that this guy is that character in a campfire story. For some reason we like to sit around in the dark around the campfire when you're out in the woods and stuff and hold the flashlight up to your face and giggle while we try to scare each other. That's what makes this genre fun."

Less fun was the idea of taking over for Englund, who played Krueger in eight films and one television series.

"He is synonymous with Freddy. You mention the word, we conjure that up," Haley says. "For me it's not a competition. You can't compete with Robert. You just do your best and accept being second-place Freddy."

Of course, taking on the role also included more practical challenges, like the six-hour sessions in the makeup chair to capture Freddy's frightening countenance.

"You just kind of sit there. There's not a lot to do," Haley says of the morning ritual. "You can't move much, not at all. I can't read because I don't have glasses. If I had really good eyesight, I could probably. It's a lot of just sitting there zoning, learning how to meditate."

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primetime — 4/29/10

OT	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
	265	353	2	TVO	Super Structures (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Trial and Retribution		Visions of Space		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Survivor: Heroes vs. Villains		The Office (N)	'Til Death	90210 "Multiple Choices"		News Hour
	-	-	5	SRC	Squelettes	Gars, fille	Perdus (HDTV) (SC)		Vampires & cie (SC)		Le Téléjournal Nouvelles. (SC)		La Zone (SC)
	209	342	6	CHRO	TMZ (N)	Access H.	FlashForward (HDTV) (N)		Fringe "Brown Betty" (N)		(10:01) Private Practice (N)		Comedy Now
	196	311	7	CTV	The Vampire Diaries (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigat'n		Grey's Anatomy (N)		The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)		CTV News
	208	303	8	CBC	NHL Hockey Playoffs: Teams TBA. (HDTV) (Live)						CBC News: The National		The Hour
	-	360	9	NBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Community (N)	Parks/Recreat	The Office (N)	30 Rock	The Marriage Ref (N)		News
	117	713	10	TVA	Marché	*Comment perdre son mec en 10 jours* ★★ (2003, Com. Sentimentale)					TVA nouvelles	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	-	-	11	QS	Big Brother QC	Rire et délire	*Attaque solaire* (2006, Science-fiction) Louis Gossett Jr.. (SC)				L'Attaque à 5 (N)		Big Brother QC
	137	763	12	TFO	Panorama		La Grande soif	Volt	(9:01) *Le Souffle au coeur* ★★★ (1971, Com. dramatique)				Vu du large
	-	362	13	CBS	The Insider (N)	Judge Brown	Survivor: Heroes vs. Villains		CSI: Crime Scene Investigat'n		The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)		Two/Half Men
	216	395	14	OMN2	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	214	344	15	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Community (N)	Parks/Recreat	Accidentally	30 Rock	The Marriage Ref (N)		News
	115	343	16	CFMT	Two/Half Men	The Office	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Metropia
	218	345	18	CHCH	*Chasing Liberty* ★★ (2004, Romance-Comedy) Mandy Moore.				*Sugar & Spice* ★★ (2001, Comedy) Marla Sokoloff.				News at 11 (N)
	-	361	20	ABC	Action News	Entertainment	FlashForward (HDTV) (N)		Grey's Anatomy (N)		(10:01) Private Practice (N)		News
	512	396	24	CPAC	La Période de questions		Heure polit.	L'Heure politique				Revue	Période-quest.
	651	355	25	CTS	Little House on the Prairie		Father Dowling Mysteries		100 Huntley Street		Life Today	This Is Day	John Hagee
	-	365	36	FOX	TMZ (N)	Seinfeld	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		Fringe "Brown Betty" (N)		FOX 2 News (N)		News
	-	-	64	PBS	Business Rpt.	Energy	Manor Born	Time Goes By	Masterpiece Classic "Small Island" (N)			New York Now	Charlie Rose

news

	205	312	104	CTV	The Vampire Diaries (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigat'n		Grey's Anatomy (N)		The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)		CTV News
	502	390	26	NW	The Lang & O'Leary Exchange		Connect with Mark Kelley (N)		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		National
	500	500	33	CNN	John King, USA (N)		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV) (N)		

sports

	406	417	27	net	MLB Baseball Oakland Athletics at Toronto Blue Jays. From Rogers Centre in Toronto.						Sportsnet Connected		Prime Time
	126	730	28	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI économie	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30	TSN	NHL Hockey						SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
	410	403	52	SCR	NBA Basketball Playoffs: Teams TBA.				Score Now		Score Now		Score Now
	411	457	56	OLN	Ghost Hunters		Destination Truth		Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Ghost Hunters		Destin. Truth
	417	406	59	SC	NASCAR Smart	NASCAR Hub	Fast Track to Fame (HDTV)		Bullrun (HDTV)		Bullrun (HDTV) (N)		Pass Time

family

	554	544	48	TEL	Spliced (N)	Total Drama	Stoked (N)	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	*Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life*		
	557	540	51	FAM	Sonny Chance	Suite Life	Overruled! (N)	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
	551	542	65	YTV	That's-Weird	Family Biz	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	Family Biz	To Be Indie	Family Biz	Prank Patrol
	570	580	29	MM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		mmtop10.ca		Duran Duran Arena		Family Jewels
	615	520	31	A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV) (N)		Fugitive Chronicles (N)		Fugitive Chron.
	628	584	32	SPKE	*Soldier* ★ (1998, Science Fiction) Kurt Russell, Connie Nielsen.				(9:05) TNA Wrestling (HDTV)				UFC 113 Coun.

cable variety

	521	560	34	TLC	LA Ink (HDTV)		LA Ink (HDTV)		LA Ink "Caught in a Lie"		LA Ink "Time Is Up" (N)		LA Ink
	145	761	35	TV5	Horizons (SC)		Envoyé spécial			Geopolitis	Blacks Harbour		TV5 Le Journal
	616	521	39	SHO	Relic Hunter		*Blind Trust* (2007, Suspense) Jessica Capshaw.				NCIS "Toxic" (HDTV)		NCIS
	620	523	40	BVO	Storytellers	Snapshot	Innovators	Writers	*Love, Sex & Eating the Bones* (2003, Romance-Comedy)				Law & Order
	520	505	42	DIS	Daily Planet (N)		Superswarm				MythBusters		Daily Planet
	575	583	43	CMT	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Unstable
	601	562	45	SLC	Rich Bride Poor Bride		Bootcamp	Last 10	10 Pounds	Last 10	Chop Shop	Chop Shop	ET Canada
	625	548	46	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Martin	Sarah	Daily Show
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House/Payne	House/Payne	Law & Order: SVU		Seinfeld	Name Is Earl	*Sleepy Hollow*
	600	564	49	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes Inspection		House-Bryan	Real Renos	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		V "Heretic's Fork" (N)		Lost "Ab Aeterno"		InnerSpace (N)
	581	566	53	MTV	The City	After	Cribs	Cribs	My Life as Liz	My Life as Liz	The Hills	The City	After
	618	524	54	TROP	Reality	Whatever	Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	'70s Show	King	Comeback
	522	506	55	HIS	Ice Road Truckers (HDTV)		Ice Pilots NWT (HDTV)		Ax Men (HDTV)		Ancient Discoveries		Re-Inventors
	129	773	60	CD	Biographies (HDTV)		Science du combat		Gangland (HDTV) (SC)		Scènes de crime (HDTV)		J'ai frôlé
	261	394	61	V	Murder, She Wrote		On the Buses	The Good Life	*The Accidental Tourist* ★★★ (1988, Drama) William Hurt, Geena Davis.				
	602	567	62	W	Supernanny		Love It or List It		Confidential	Confidential	Divine Design	House-Sell	Love It-List It
	269	350	70	APTN	Wapos Bay	By the Rapids	Call of the Wild (Part 2 of 2)		*Parenthood* ★★★ (1989, Comedy) Steve Martin, Mary Steenburgen.				
	621	527	71	TLK	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ
	603	561	95	FN	Ricardo	Chuck-Day Off	HEAT, McEwan	At the Table	Ultimate Recipe Showdown		Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Bitchin

critics'corner

Community
The study group is divided after Pierce (Chevy Chase) crosses a line with Shirley (Yvette Nicole Brown), forcing the students to choose between the two. Britta and Jeff (Gillian Jacobs, Joel McHale) face a group of young bullies and their mother (guest star Lisa Rinna). Troy and Abed (Donald Glover, Danny Pudi) compile a "bucket list" of things they need to accomplish before they graduate in the new episode "The Art of Disclosure." 8 PM on 15 CITY 9 NBC

Love, Sex & Eating the Bones
Relax, this movie isn't about kinky cannibals. It's a 2003 romantic comedy starring Hill Harper ("CSI: NY") as a security guard who gets through a long spell of singlehood with the help of his local adult-entertainment shop. When he finally meets a willing young lady (Marlyne N. Afflack), he discovers his porn habit has affected his ability to relate to a real woman. Ed Robertson of Barenaked Ladies also stars in director David Sutherland's first feature. 9 PM on 40 BVO

Wine and chocolate tasting

Be decadent with a wine and chocolate tasting, including how chocolate and truffles are made, tonight at Exposure Gallery – 2nd Floor at Thyme & Again Creative Catering Shop at 7 p.m. $50 per person. SHARI GOODMAN/FOR METRO OTTAWA

Urban Foodie

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(613) 565-3279

Rating: ●●●
Dinner for two with drinks: $80

At Big Easy's, you'll get New Orleans' style seafood and steak, but don't hold them to the promise of a bayou buzz.

With their seven-foot oyster bar tempting us, we started with a tasting of six oysters ($9). The favourite condiment among the several selections was the sweet raspberry, onion and balsamic compote. Also good was Big Easy's Crab Cake ($14) using blue crab with a simple tomato sauce for sliding bites through before tasting. The Southern Louisiana Shrimp and Crab Gumbo ($8) was traditionally laden with okra and had the distinctive taste of sassafrass from the filé powder.

On the web

- Get recipes and more great food content at metronews.ca/recipes

Blackening fish is common in Louisiana cuisine, and though black in parts, the Blackened Salmon Pontchartrain ($28) was more browned than blackened.

The lemon butter sauce with its chunks of shrimp, crawfish and blue crab was tasty and generous. My 12 oz. Ribeye ($30) was perfectly cooked, but the cut was extra fatty, not just well-marbled. With great expectations of a heavenly Béarnaise sauce promised by the wait staff, I was disappointed by the light-on-tarragon butter served instead.

The homemade Vanilla Crème Brûlée ($7) came with a dark, crunchy layer of crackle that was perfectly bitter with the sweet and creamy crème.

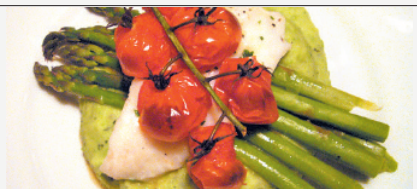
If you're looking for an alternative to the popular Lone Star Texas Grill or Big Daddy's Crab Shack, then move your anchor. This one will satisfy but not buzz.

SHARI GOODMAN/FOR METRO OTTAWA

Ribeye 12 oz ($30).

Global Peasant blog online

- Travel along with Diane Thompson's culinary adventures in her Global Peasant blog.
- Check out metronews.ca/globalpeasant for a recipe of Minted Green Pea Mash and Baked Halibut.



Dining out

SUSHI At Wasabi Japanese Restaurant and Sushi Bar, you'll find authentic Japanese dishes including signature rolls and sushi that can be served in a Sushi Boat for two. It's tempura and bento boxes are highly recommended. 41 Clarence St. (613) 241-3636

FRESH Enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of Carmen's Veranda in the heart of Old Ottawa South. Fresh ingredients are used daily from local producers, and the colourful and artistic decor is equally as unique as the rotating menu.

SHARI GOODMAN/FOR METRO OTTAWA

In brief

SAMPLE wine with an introduction to tasting by Wayne Walker including a gourmet lunch this Saturday at TRIO Restaurant — Novotel Ottawa from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. $129 per person. eventbrite.com/event/512437715/rss

SHARI GOODMAN/ FOR METRO OTTAWA

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Rivers goes for the (latex) jugular
Joan Rivers — who's famously had plastic surgery — supports Heidi Montag, who got 10 plastic surgery operations in a day. "I think she should have started sooner," she told usmagazine.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Brangelina wedding rumours abound

THE TABLOIDS FIGURE IF THEY KEEP WRITING ABOUT IT, THEY CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN. JUST LIKE IN *THE SECRET* Angelina Jolie reportedly asked Brad Pitt to marry her, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress — who earlier this month was reported to be preparing to tie the knot with her long-term partner — is said to have decided it was time to make Brad her husband during the couple's stay in Venice, where Angelina was shooting new movie The Tourist.

A source said: "Angelina has fallen in love with Brad all over again — and she wants to make it official by getting married. Once she made up her mind the only thing left to do was tell Brad."

Rumours are rife the ceremony will take place at Pitt's close friend George Clooney's Italian villa on Lake Como and the pair's oldest four children, Maddox, eight, Pax, six, Zahara, five, and three-year-old Shiloh, will have big roles on the special day.

Pitt's parents, Bill and Jane, are also said to be delighted at the news of the nuptials and are looking forward to seeing their son wed for the second time. His first wife was Jennifer Aniston.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lohan's dad has 'poisoned' her career, says insider

DADDY DEAREST Lindsay Lohan's dad posted on Twitter that his famous daughter has HIV, though he quickly insisted his account was hacked. But industry insiders say it's just another example of how he is poisoning Lindsay's once-promising career.

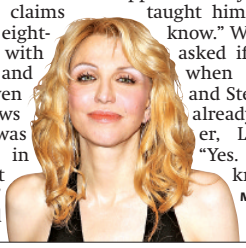
"Michael Lohan has put the last nail into Lindsay's career. It's amazing to see a father destroy the last remains of his daughter's career," a casting director tells Popeater. "Lindsay is a great actress who has problems, but make no mistake, her biggest problem right now is her dad."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Courtney Love: I slept with pop star's hubby

EVEN MICHAEL LOHAN IS LIKE, 'WOW, I COULD NEVER SAY ANYTHING TO DAMAGE LINDSAY'S CAREER AS MUCH AS THAT' Courtney Love claims she had an eight-month affair with Gavin Rossdale and that his wife, Gwen Stefani, knows about it. "He was such an Adonis in his day! He got good in bed," Love told Howard Stern of her time with the former Bush front-man. "Something happened. Maybe Gwen taught him, for all I know." When Stern asked if this was when Rossdale and Stefani were already together, Love said, "Yes. She does know."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Clarkson blasts web pirates

AHOY THERE, MATEY. AT LEAST *SOMEONE'S* ACTUALLY INTERESTED IN YOUR MUSIC Trifle with unreleased Kelly Clarkson material at your own risk, EW.com reports. As noted by Idolator, the online leak of a track known as Cleopatra on Tuesday inspired not one but two furious Twitter messages from the star.

First: "Cleopatra is NOT a song on my next record! It was written for another artist! I have no idea how it leaked, it's a rough demo, unfinished!"

Then, minutes later, Clarkson added: "I'm so tired of disrespecting, lying, sneaky little trolls that pretend to be human."

Funny thing is, adds EW.com, is that Cleopatra is not bad at all. It's clear enough that it's an unfinished demo, and Idolator is quite right that it leans more toward hip-hop/dance-pop than anything Clarkson has done in years.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

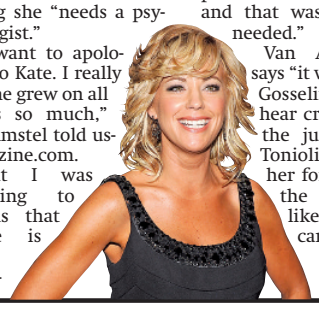
'Dancing' co-star apologizes for insulting Gosselin

WHAT HE REALLY MEANT TO SAY WAS THAT SHE NEEDS A *PSYCHIATRIST* Dancing With the Stars' Louis van Amstel is ready to make amends with Kate Gosselin after saying she "needs a psychologist."

"I want to apologize to Kate. I really do. She grew on all of us so much," van Amstel told usmagazine.com. "What I was meaning to say is that dance is like therapy," he explained. "It's such a great way to use movement without having to talk about it — just move and go to a certain place. That's what I said and that was what Kate needed."

Van Amstel, 37, says "it was hard" for Gosselin, 35, to hear criticism from the judges. Bruno Tonioli slammed her for moving on the dance floor like a "shopping cart."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Are Rihanna and galpal more than just friends?

WOW, SHE'S *SO* EDGY Speculation is swirling that Rihanna is a lot closer to her assistant, Melissa Forde, than previously thought. The pair have been getting affectionate in public, showing up to an after-party in Frankfurt hand-in-hand, according to Bossip. And Rihanna and Forde reportedly have matching tattoos. Rihanna has previously said in an interview, "All humans are born with the ability to be attracted to both sexes. I mean, I could see myself in a relationship with a girl."

METRO WORLD NEWS

New Hollywood couple pretends to play coy

WHAT? THEY'RE ACTORS. IT'S WHAT THEY DO After sightings last week prompted speculation Josh Hartnett and Abbie Cornish are now an item, the pair seemed to confirm the rumours when they popped up at Channing Tatum's 30th birthday party in New York City, according to Page Six. "They turned up after midnight," a source says. "They definitely looked like a couple."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

Today, **NICK CANNON** adorably thinks the Lohans want privacy, **SAMANTHA RONSON** is tired, and **STEPHEN FRY** needs a trim.

@NickCannon We have to remember that at the end of the day this is a family matter that the Lohans have to deal with. All we can do is pray for them

@samantharonson All i've been thinking about since I woke up is how long til i can go back to sleep.

@stephenfry Oh dear. My hair is simply too long. I look like James May's twin sister.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

No wedding date set for Cowell

NOW WE'LL HAVE TO CONTINUE WAITING TO SEE HOW MANY IDOL CONTESTANTS WILL BE SINGING AT HIS RECEPTION Despite earlier reports that Simon Cowell and fiancée Mezhgan Hussainy would be tying the knot by September, the American Idol judge say there's no date set. "Wedding, what wedding? In spite of various people claiming to be making arrangements for our wedding, no such plans exist," Cowell tells Reveal magazine. "Nothing is concrete and I'm not making any announcement yet. Everything is fine though, and will be sorted soon."

METRO WORLD NEWS

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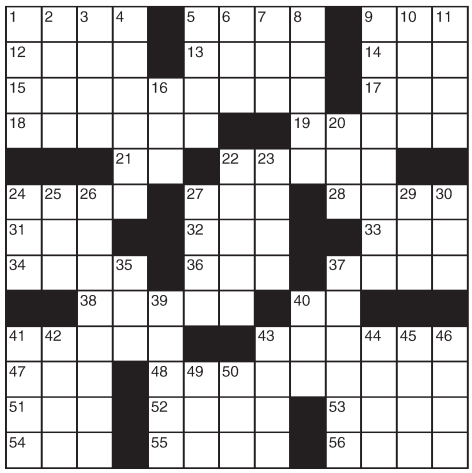
For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**



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50 Historic war zone, for short

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

			2	3			7	
			5	9	7		6	
5					6	3		
6						8		4
			8		5			
1		4						9
		9	4					7
	6		9	5	1			
	1			7	3			

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

9	5	4	6	7	1	2	8	3
3	8	7	5	9	2	1	6	4
1	2	6	8	4	3	7	5	9
7	6	1	2	3	9	5	4	8
2	3	8	1	5	4	6	9	7
5	4	9	7	6	8	3	1	2
6	7	3	4	8	5	9	2	1
8	9	2	3	1	6	4	7	5
4	1	5	9	2	7	8	3	6

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Finger-lickin' Ribs

INGREDIENTS:

1 to 1.5 kg pork loin back ribs or spareribs, cut into 2-rib portions
1 medium-size yellow onion, chopped
1/4 cup orange juice
1/2 cup chili sauce
1 tbsp molasses
1 tsp grated orange rind
1/2 tsp dry mustard
1/4 tsp ground cloves
1/8 tsp ground cayenne pepper

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). Place pork ribs, bone side down, in large shallow baking pan. Bake for 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 hours or until tender. Drain off fat.

2. Meanwhile, in small pot, combine onion and orange juice.

3. Cook over moderate heat 5 minutes or until onion is tender.

4. Stir in chili sauce, molasses, orange rind, mustard, cloves, and cayenne pepper. Bring to boil.

5. Set aside half of chili sauce mixture. Brush ribs with some of remaining chili sauce mixture.

6. Bake for 15 minutes more, brushing once or twice with chili sauce mixture.

7. Serve ribs with reserved chili sauce mixture.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Imagine that you are a completely different person. That's a lot of imaging for one day but what you learn about life will be worth the effort.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
The idea of changing your routines may give you nightmares but today's cosmic picture urges you to look at arranging your affairs differently.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Act as if what you imagine today will be your reality tomorrow. Don't ask yourself what is possible, ask yourself what it is you really want to do.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
This will be an exciting day for you, the kind of day when you discover new things about the world and the people you share it with.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Where do you really belong? What do you most want to be doing? These are the kind of questions you will be asking today.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
"Passion" and "Virgo" are not words that always go easily together but something or someone will inspire you today.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Venus in your fellow Air sign of Gemini makes this one of the best times of the year for you, but other aspects warn that your ego is fragile.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
You feel good about yourself at the moment. You always feel good when you're in love.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You may be in tune with the spirit of the times but not everyone wants to move ahead a breakneck speed. Accept that fact today.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
What inspires you? Whatever it is that is what you should be focusing on now, even if it means neglecting other things for a while.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
It may seem as if you are moving in one direction and loved ones are moving in the opposite direction, but looks can be deceptive.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
You can easily persuade people to give you the emotional and financial support you need, but you will gain more in the long-term if you do it for yourself.

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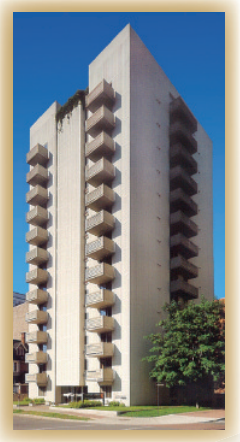

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